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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL GENEALOGY COLLECTION









HISTORICAL NOTES

RESPECTING THE PARISH

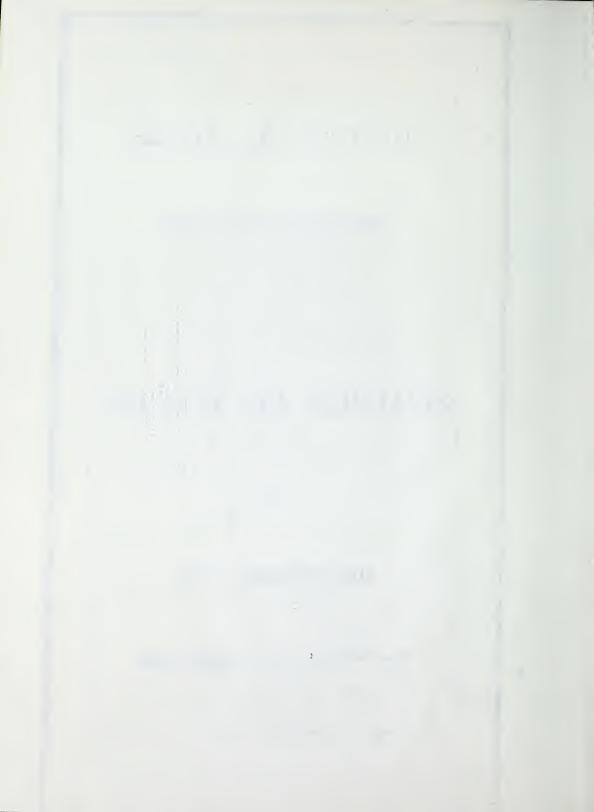
OF

STRATFIELD AND NEWFIELD,

NOW

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

By WILLIAM B. HINCKS.



1770816

INTRODUCTION.

ALTHOUGH Bridgeport has become the third city of Connecticut in point of wealth and population, and is inferior to none of its rivals in business enterprise and activity, it must be confessed that its career offers but slight temptation to the historian. Its triumphs have been those of peace, and the record of its progress an uneventful one, darkened by no great reverses. Though this uniform prosperity can not be a cause of regret, it imparts to the history of the place something of monotony. There are, however, many scattered incidents connected with the growth of the place, that possess at least a local interest, but each passing day renders the memory of these occurrences more indistinct, and increases the difficulty of obtaining them. It is with the hope of preserving some of them so that they may be available for future use that the present sketch has been undertaken. The author in preparing it has made frequent use of the "Recollections of Olden Time," by Esq. Isaac Sherman, and the "History of New Haven Colony," by Mr. E. R. Lambert, both late residents of Bridgeport. He would also acknowledge his obligations to Messrs. R. B. Lacey, W. R. Bunnell, Joshua Lord, and others, for information furnished him.

The necessary limits of the article did not permit its being brought down to a more recent period than the year 1850. Hence some additional material that has been collected could not be made use of, and the narrative will be found, like the valentine of Mr. Samuel Weller, "to pull up wery sudden."

Perhaps at some future day it may be continued, and brought to completion.

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HISTORICAL NOTES:

ALONG the northern edge of the city of Bridgeport runs a broad and ancient road, now comparatively little traveled, but formerly an important thoroughfare.

Passing with level course the quiet resting-place of our dead in the beautiful Mountain Grove Cemetery, and the humbler enclosure upon the other side, where repose no less peacefully the remains of the early settlers, it rises where it crosses Park Avenue, and winds over the brow of a rocky hill till it reaches Main Street, where it resumes its former level. Beyond this point it inclines still farther towards the north, and crossing the Pequonnock River only a little below the reservoir, widens into the beautiful common, known as Old Mill Green, and is finally lost to view on the further side of the lofty hill which intervenes between us and the village of Stratford. To a portion of this road the name of North Avenue has been recently given, but it is more frequently spoken of as the "Old Stage-road," or the "King's Highway," from the circumstance that it was laid out long prior to the revolution, when this locality was a part of the territory of Great Britain. Along this line, about midway between the settlements of Stratford and Fairfield, the first white inhabitants of this vicinity planted themselves. There were a few houses built to the northward on what is now the Easton Turnpike, and some others further south upon Division Street, but the old road was the centre of population, and formed the main street of the plantation.

Strolling along this highway on a summer afternoon, many a pleasant picture of the olden time is suggested to one contemplatively inclined. Its very width, which, with a single exception, is more than twice that of any other street in the place, shows that the land was of less value formerly than at present. The absence of any uniform line would also suggest that the fields were first laid out, while the road was left to take care of itself.

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Here and there stands a house fronting upon it, of antique fashion, its shingled sides overgrown with moss, and long sloping roof, descending nearly to the ground in the rear, showing it to be the relic of another generation.

The milestones upon the road, (one of which it is unpleasant to observe is defaced by a painted advertisement of "dry goods and carpets,") are supposed to have been set up by Benjamin Franklin when he was postmaster-general of the United States, and this was a part of the regular mail route between New York and Boston.

But the history of the place dates back very much further than Franklin's time, and nearly a hundred and fifty years before he passed over the old road in his carriage, with a curious device for measuring the distance attached to its hub, English-speaking people had their habitations here. Before them, of course, were the aborigines, the best account of whom is contained in Deforest's "History of the Indians of Connecticut."

They belonged to the Paugusset tribe, and their domain extended for fifteen miles along the coast, and some distance back into the country. It included the land now divided into eight townships those of Bridgeport, Stratford, Milford, Huntington, Derby, Orange, Trumbull, and Monroe. The Wepawaugs, upon the east side of the Housatonic River, are thought to have been a branch of the same tribe. Their neighbors upon the east were the Quinnipiacks, of New Haven; on the west the Unkawas, of Fairfield; and upon the north the Potatucks, of Newtown and Woodbury. With the exception of this latter tribe, which was far from numerous, the back country, comprising the present limits of Litchfield, and portions of Fairfield and Hartford Counties, was almost uninhabited at the time of its discovery by the English. The Paugussets had villages at Stratford and Milford, and at other points upon the banks of the Housatonic River. At one of these settlements, on the east side of the river, about half a mile north of Washington Bridge, they had a strong fortress, consisting of banks of earth, and stout palisades set firmly in the ground, which was designed to protect them against their enemies, the Mohawks. The first settlements in this part of the country by the whites were made in 1639, at Stratford, Pequonnoch and Fairfield, as will be hereafter related in detail. They purchased the land which they occupied from the Indian sachems, who agreed to defend their title against

any other Indians whatsoever. The usual manner of purchase at that time was the Indian method of "twig and turf." A twig and a piece of turf being brought to the Sagamore, he placed the end of the branch in the clod, and then gave it to the English as a token that he thereby surrendered to them the soil, with all the trees and appurtenances. In 1659, twenty years after the original settlement, the territory of the Paugussets having become much contracted by successive sales to the whites, it was decreed by the General Court sitting at Hartford, that a reservation of about eighty acres of land should be laid for the Indians upon "Gold Hill," as it was then called, commencing at the foot of the hill, and embracing its entire surface. The committee appointed to see that this order was put in execution were Mr. Campbell, Thomas Fitch, Richard Olmstead, and Nathaniel Elye, of Norwalk. This was the same eminence which is now known to us as Golden Hill, so called from the glistening mica found in its rocks. The value of the reservation was appraised by the committee at twenty pounds sterling, which sum was afterwards paid to the town of Stratford by Fairfield, as many of the Indians who were removed to this tract had previously lived within the limits of the latter place. About a hundred wigwams stood at the foot of the hill, and in them the Indians resided during the winter, living chiefly upon shell fish. It is stated by old inhabitants that underneath the level of Elm Street is a deposit of shells five or six feet in depth, which were thrown there by the Indians.

During the summer months the men would frequently be absent for weeks at a time upon hunting excursions through the forests which covered the entire country a little way back from the coast. The women and children on such occasions would be left behind to cultivate their corn fields, with which the larger portion of the hill was covered. The corn they were accustomed to either roast green, or to dry and pound in mortars hollowed out from the rock. A good specimen of this kind of mortar may still be seen on the ledge a few miles west of Bridgeport, known as Samp Mortar Rock. Two others also remain upon a hill west of the reservoir.

Their burial-ground was upon Golden Hill, near the head of Broad Street, though their bones have been found at various times in other places.

After the year 1659, when their land was set off to them, these Indians were generally known as the Golden Hill tribe, from the



name of their reservation. In the year 1731 the last sachem who had exercised authority over all the branches of the tribe died, and at his death the tribe was broken up. Some removed to New York and joined the Six Nations, and others connected themselves with the Potatucks of Newtown. But very few remained upon their land at Golden Hill, as is shown by the fact that in 1765 the remnant of the tribe had dwindled to four men and three women. Seeing their numbers so reduced the settlers began to encroach upon their reservation, and to tear down the unoccupied wigwams. Three of the Indians, named respectively, John, Eurice, and Sarah Shoran or Sherman, petitioned the legislature for redress. The matter was investigated, and the parties who had encroached upon them were ordered to vacate the premises, and to restore the land which they had unlawfully occupied. A compromise was, however, finally effected, by which the Indians gave up all right and title to their Golden Hill property, receiving in exchange twelve acres of land on the west bank of the Pequonnock River, eight acres of woodland on Rocky Hill, thirty bushels of corn, and three pounds worth of blankets. The tract upon the river to which they removed was afterwards known as the "Indian Lot," and was situated near the present junction of Main and Franklin Streets. Within the recollection of men now living an Indian wigwam stood upon it. A clear spring of water in the same vicinity was also known as the "Indian Spring." The Rocky Hill tract was north of the present reservoir.

Both of these pieces of land were eventually sold, and the proceeds, amounting to a considerable sum, invested for the benefit of the surviving members of the tribe. In 1842 the sum of five hundred dollars from this fund was expended in purchasing a small house and about twenty acres of wild land, in the township of Trumbull, to which they were removed. Until quite a recent period some of these Indians and those of another family, called the Pan tribe, would occasionally visit this city. They were all poor, miserable, and degraded, and it seems probable that the race is now entirely extinct.

The first time these coasts were ever trodden by the foot of the white man was during the memerable pursuit of the Pequot Indians, in 1637. After the destruction of the main body of their tribe at the "Pequot Fort," on Groton Hill, the survivors fled southward and westward along the shore of the sound. They were,

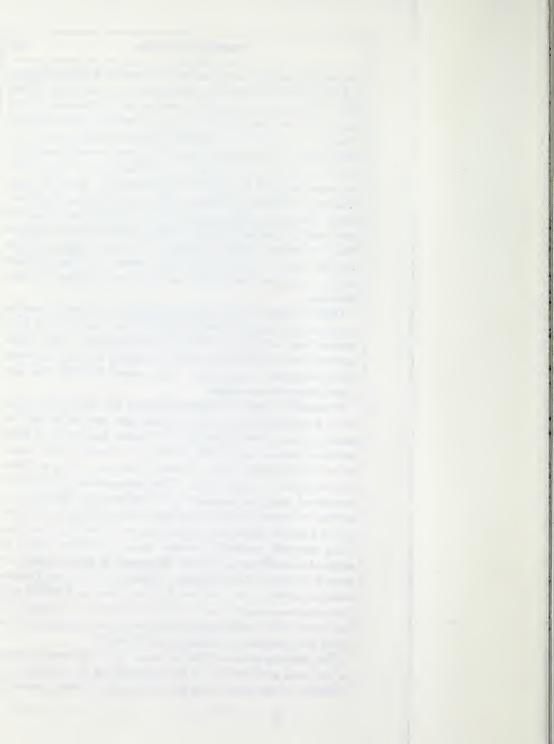


pursued by a body of troops under the command of Captain Mason and Lieutenant Davenport, accompanied by a number of Indian allies. The country at that time was covered with a thick forest, and the wide and deep currents of the Housatonic (then called the Paugusset) and of the Pequonnock presented serious obstacles to their passage. The latter river must have been crossed above Berkshire Pond, for below that point it is not fordable even at the present day, when its depth is much less than formerly. Near this place occurred a skirmish, in which a soldier named John Woods was killed. Two years later a musket with his initials carved upon it was found by Lieutenant Thomas Bull, and by him was restored to Woods' relatives. Near the present site of the village of Southport the fugitives were overtaken, the swamp in which they had sought refuge was surrounded, and all were destroyed or taken prisoners.

Upon the return of the army the soldiers carried back favorable reports of the country through which they had passed, and in 1639 tracts of land at Cupheag, afterwards called Stratford, and at Pughquonnock, were purchased from the Paugusset Indians, and settlements commenced upon them. Unquowa, or Fairfield, was also settled about the same time.

It would be a matter of interest to know who the original planters at Pequonnock were, and the precise spot upon which they located, but this is now impossible. We know, however, that there must have been a considerable number, as in October, 1639, a committee was appointed by the General Court, then sitting at Hartford, to repair to Pequonnock. They were ordered to administer the oath of fidelity to the planters, and to direct them to choose two deputies to represent them in the next General Court, and to designate a proper person to exercise the men in military discipline. They were also to establish a court whose jurisdiction should be confined to small cases, in which the amount in dispute should not exceed the value of 40 shillings. Perhaps in the term Pequonnock, the territory now embraced in the limits of Fairfield may have also been included, but it is unmistakeable that the name itself was given to the territory lying contiguous to the boundary line between the plantations of Stratford and Fairfield.

The following is the earliest list extant of the freemen or voters in the town of Fairfield. It was rendered by the selectmen or constables of the place, in the year 1669, and has been preserved



in Trumbull's Historical Collections. The names of such as resided within the present limits of the town of Bridgeport are designated by an asterisk (*).

"A LIST OF YE NAMES OF YE FREEMEN OF TOWNE OF FAIREFIELD."

Jno: Odell,*
James Bennet,*
Math: Sherwood,*
Rich'd Hubball,*
Jno Wheeler,*
Ezekiell Sanford,
Tho: Morehouse,*
Sam'l Morehouse,
Nath'l Scelv,*
Rob' Turney,
Tho: Bennet,*
Tho: Jones,
Mr. Nathan Gold,
Mr. Willm. Hill,
Willm Ward,
Oct. 10, '69.

Nath^{II} Burr,*
John Buckley,
Mr. Jehu Burr,*
John Banks,
John Palmer,
Cornelius Hall,
Jn° Burr,*
Joshua Knowle,
John Cable, Sr.,*
Humphrey Hide,
Jno. Hide,
Peter Coley,
Jn° Knowle,
Jn° Sturge,
Dan^{II} Lockwood,

Jn° Cable, Junr.,*
Mr. Danl¹ Burr,*
Rich⁴ Oyden,
Danl¹ Frost,
Joseph Lockwood,
John Green, Senr,
Simon Crouch,
Sam¹¹ Ward,
John Barlow,
Robert Beachen,
Mr. Wakeman,
Henery Jackson,
Henery Rowlland,*
Thomas Stapels,

John Sturgis, selectman.
Peter Slapum, (?) selectman.
John Knowls, selectman.
William Ward, Nathaniell Bur, constables.

It may be observed that it is probable that the above list does not contain all the names of heads of families at that time residing in the place, as it is not unlikely that none but church members in good standing were allowed to vote. The remains of some of these men rest in the old Stratfield burying ground, where stones have been found bearing date about 1640. Many of these are of extremely rude construction, apparently wrought by the relatives of the deceased, from the quarries, before there was any regular stone-cutter in the place. Upon the earliest of them only the initials and the date are carved, and the lapse of time and the action of the weather has rendered even these almost illegible, and it is only by extreme care that they can be deciphered.

In the year 1640 a commission was appointed by the General Court at Hartford, to go down to Pequonnock and settle the question of boundary, concerning which a dispute had arisen with their neighbors upon each side. Some time after this date the name of the plantation was changed from Pequonnock to Stratfield, a name compounded of Stratford and Fairfield, as a part of the settlement lay upon each side of the boundary line between these two places.



II.

For more than fifty years after the first settlement of Pequonnock, or Stratfield, the planters possessed no church of their own, but were forced to attend service upon the Sabbath either at Stratford or at Fairfield. In the winter and in stormy weather this must have been very inconvenient, for attendance upon public worship was compulsory, and its omission not easily excused, as the following extract from the New Haven records shows:

"In 1647 William Blayden was publicly and severely whipped for not attending meeting, although he plead that all the clothes he had were unfit to wear, being all wet through the preceeding Saturday, as he had been abroad after cattle in the woods in a violent rain, and on the Sunday had kept his bed."

Finding the long distance which they were compelled to traverse on each Sabbath burdensome, and the place having increased somewhat in size, application was at length made to the legislature for relief, and in the year 1690 ecclesiastical privileges were granted to the parish of Stratfield. This was the first parish in the state which obtained these privileges. The limits of the new parish embraced the greater part of what is now the town of Bridgeport, including the territory which has recently been annexed. It was bounded upon the east by the Pequonnock River, south by Long Island Sound, west by the course of Ash Creek, and north by the present town of Easton.

In the year 1693 the foundation of a house of worship was laid on an eminence in the upper part of Division Street, a few rods south of the King's Highway. This height affords a pleasant view of the surrounding country, and is still called "Meeting-House Hill." The building, though small, was not completed until 1695, and in the mean time it is probable that the people gathered upon the Sabbath in a private house, having already provided themselves with a pastor.

This was Rev. Charles Chauncey, son of Mr. Israel Chauncey, the Congregational minister at Stratford, and grandson of Charles Chauncey, a distinguished clergyman, formerly professor of Greek and Latin at Cambridge University, England, and afterwards for many years the honored president of Harvard College in this country.



Mr. Israel Chauncey, of Stratford, is celebrated as one of the original founders of Yale College. In 1701 he was chosen president of the institution, but declined the honor.

In a work published by one of his descendants, the following anecdote is related concerning him: A certain Mr. Walker, a minister who had recently come to Stratford, and was supposed to be trying to draw off a portion of Mr. Chauncey's congregation, preached a sermon, taking for his text the passage—"What went ye out into the wilderness to see; a reed shaken in the wind?" During his discourse he made some disparaging remarks, which were understood to apply to Mr. Chauncey personally. In the afternoon of the same day Mr. Chauncey preached from the text—"Your adversary, the devil, walketh about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour;" and in the course of his sermon observed, "You see, my brethren, that the devil is a great Walker."

Mr. Chauncey owned a farm in Stratford, which was cultivated by slave labor, as was usual at that day, and at his death left an estate valued at £743, clear of encumbrances.

Charles Chauncey, the younger, was born in Stratford, September 3d, 1668. He graduated at Harvard College in 1686, and commenced preaching to the people of Stratfield in 1693, being twenty-five years of age at the time. Upon the 29th of June, 1692, he was married to Miss Sarah Burr, of Stratfield. She was granddaughter of Mr. Jehu Burr, one of the original settlers, and daughter of Colonel John Burr, for many years one of the most prominent men in the place.

Colonel Burr built his bouse near the picturesque old oak, which every one who has passed through Fairfield Avenue or State Street extension must have noticed and admired. Under the wide spreading branches of this old tree, which was then green and flourishing, he held a meeting of the Iudian Sagamores, and from them purchased the farm upon which it stands, a portion of which is still owned by his granddaughter, the venerable Miss Polly Burr, of Fairfield Avenue.

A house was built for the young minister and his wife upon the northwest corner of Colonel Burr's farm. It is no longer standing, but the ruins of the cellar may still be seen upon the cast side of Cook's Lane. Respecting this spot Esq. Sherman writes: "Until now, or very recently, there was standing near the old cellar of his dwelling one of the largest bell-pear trees that I have ever seen.



It was at least two feet in diameter at the root, and about sixty feet high. It was straight-bodied, and without a limb for the first forty feet from the ground. It had considerable top, and yielded fruit every year. I have no doubt that it was planted by Colonel John Burr, or Parson Chauncey, at least 160 years ago."

Mr. Chauncey's salary was £60 per annum, payable in provisions at the market rate. This sum was afterwards increased to £80 per year.

In June, 1695, the new meeting-house was completed, and upon the 13th was opened for worship. Mr. Chauncey was ordained pastor, and the Congregational Church of Stratfield formed upon the same day. This is the church which is now known as the First Congregational or North Church of Bridgeport.

The meeting-house had no bell to call the worshipers together, but they were summoned by the beating of a drum. The men carried arms to defend themselves from the attacks of the Indians, upon whose friendship it was not deemed safe to rely too implicitly. A sentinel was posted upon the summit of the hill, where the church was built, to keep watch while the services were conducted within. We may imagine the savages, on the day of the dedication, standing in groups upon the top of the opposite eminence, where St. Augustine's Catholic Church now is, and which was within the bounds of their reservation, listening to the unaccustomed sound of the drum, and watching the worshipers assemble.

The original members of the church were nine in number, all males, wiz:

RICHARD HUBBELL, ISAAC WHEELER, JAMES BENNETT, SAMUEL BEARDSLEY, SAMUEL GREGORY, MATTHEW SHERMAN, RICHARD HUBBELL, Jr., DAVID SHERMAN,

JOHN ODELL, Jun.

Some apology may seem necessary for the space devoted to its history, and the minuteness with which its growth is traced in these pages, but it must be remembered that for many years the church organization was the only one in the place. Church and state were also more intimately connected at that day than at present, and it was in the meeting-house that all school meetings were held, and all secular affairs, requiring a gathering of the people, transacted. The recorder of the society was also ex-officio a public officer,



whose duties were somewhat like those of our town clerks, and upon the society's book may be found not only minutes of ecclesiastical transactions, but of conveyance of real estate, and sales of horses and cattle.

Several pages are filled with the record of bargains of this latter description, the price paid being sometimes in cash, but frequently in another sort of currency, as shown by the following extract:

"April 5, 1703. Sam' French sold James Hubbell one horse,—black, with Abell Brigham's eare mark: 2 yr old, for the sume of 3 Sheep and 2 Lams."

Mr. Chauncey's ministry lasted for over twenty years, during which time both the church and the settlement steadily increased in numbers. Besides the Sabbath services he was in the habit of delivering a religious lecture once in seven weeks, according to the custom of the times. These lectures must have been solid affairs, for it was usual to commence them when the sun was at least three hours high, and they undoubtedly lasted until sunset. On Sunday afternoon the youth of both sexes were assembled in the church and catechised publicly. No levity of demeanor was allowed upon such occasions, but it appears that even Puritan young folk were sometimes tempted in that direction, as is shown by an entry upon the society's record book.

"Voted that Nathaniel Wackle (Wakeley?) should be the man to look after ye boyes a Sabbath dayes in time of Exercise, that they play not."

Besides the catechism, "ye boyes" were taught upon the week days to read, write, and cipher, at least in the winter season, for in summer they helped carry on the farms. The first school-house was built in 1703, near the corner of Division Street and the old road. It was 21 feet in length and 16 feet wide. The school-teacher stood only second in estimation to the minister, and was always dignified with the honorary title of master. His ordinary compensation was 40s. per month. All the text-books used in the schools were the Bible and Youth's Instructor, which last was afterwards superseded by Dilworth's Spelling Book. Instead of using an arithmetic it was customary for the master "to set sums." The rod was used freely in the schools, it being the popular opinion that "to spare the rod was to spoil the child. Who the first school-master was in the parish we are not informed, but among the first was Master William Rogers. The agreement entered into between



him and the school committee for the parish of Stratfield, in the year 1710, is still extant, and is as follows. The members of the committee that year were Samuel Hubbell and Benjamin Fayerweather.

"The said William Rogers, Schoolmaster of the said Plantation, is to keep a Reading and writing School in the said Plantation, to teach the children & Youth to Read, write & cypher, the terme and time of Six months, commencing on the first day of the Instant Jan' (1710). And if said Rogers shall be wanting in said six months, he is to keep a night school,—viz: five nights every week (unto) the Tenth day of March next, and the said Plantation is to pay to (said) Rogers the sum of Nineteen pounds as Provition pay, and the remaynder as hath been payd to other Schoolmasters, to be judged by the Treasurer of the place, at or before the first day of Aprill next."

The frequent mention of sheep, and the recurrence of the word sheep-masters upon the parish records about this time, may require some explanation. The following is believed to be substantially correct.

The country being well adapted to grazing, every farmer had his flock, from whose wool the thrifty housewife prepared the homespun clothing for the family.

The care of all the flocks in summer was entrusted to three "sheep-masters," who for many years were chosen annually. The sheep were permitted to graze on the commons under the care of a shepherd during the day-time, but at night were all folded in a single inclosure. After a time it occurred to the prudent sheep-masters that their revenues might be increased by renting the sheep each night to the neighboring farmers for the purpose of enriching their land.

This practice prevailed until some true son of Connecticut, more crafty than his brethren, took the opportunity to shear the sheep one night when they were pastured on his land, inflicting thereby great detriment to the financial scheme of the worthy sheep-masters.

Mr. Channeey's first wife, Sarah Burr, died in 1697. In the following year he married Miss Sarah Wolcott, sister of Roger Wolcott, the governor of Connecticut. She lived but five years, and upon the 14th of March, 1710, we find him again married, this time to Miss Elizabeth Sherwood, who outlived him.



He died upon the 31st of December, 1714. By his will he appears to have been possessed not only of a small estate in Lambeth, England, which his father had left him, but also of the old homestead in Stratford, and of real estate, slaves, &c., in his own parish. These were divided between his widow and the surviving children.

Commodore Isaac Chauncey, who was born at Black Rock, and who distinguished himself as a naval commander in the war of 1812, was his great-grandson.

It was some time before a successor to Mr. Chauncey could be found. In the month of March following his death the society voted that Captain David Sherman should be employed to go to "Cabruck" (Saybrook?) to see if he could not prevail upon Rev. Mr. Voys, of that place, to be their minister. His mission appears to have been unsuccessful.

Upon the 21st of June, 1715, the society voted to extend a call to Rev. Samuel Cooke, of New Haven, offering him a salary of one hundred pounds sterling, and Major John Burr, Captains James Bennett and David Sherman, Lieutenant Richard Hubbell and Sergeant John Odell, were appointed a committee to treat with Mr. Cooke and see if he would accept the terms offered. Whether the minister was overawed by this display of military force or not does not appear, but he presently capitalated, and signified his acceptance of the call in the following letter:

REV. MR. COOKE'S LETTER.

"To the Worshipfull Mr. James Bennet and the other Gentlemen of the Comto Apinted By the Sosiety of Stratfield to treat with mee:—Gentlemen, plas to inform your Sosiety that I am Content to sarve them in your minestry as soun as Convenient provided thay Agree Charfully and unanimously to pay mee 100 pound pr. annum as long as I shall Sarfe them in that Capasety, to bee pad in Corant money of this Colony, or provisions at the following Rates, viz:

"Indin 2s., ry at 2s. 8d., wheat at 4s. pr bushel, porck at 20s. pr ewt., and also to provide me firwood annually, as much as I shall have occasion for the yous of my family, provided I met with no discouragements now unseen. I am Gentlemen your harty well wishers & humble Sary^t,

Sam^{tt} Cooke."



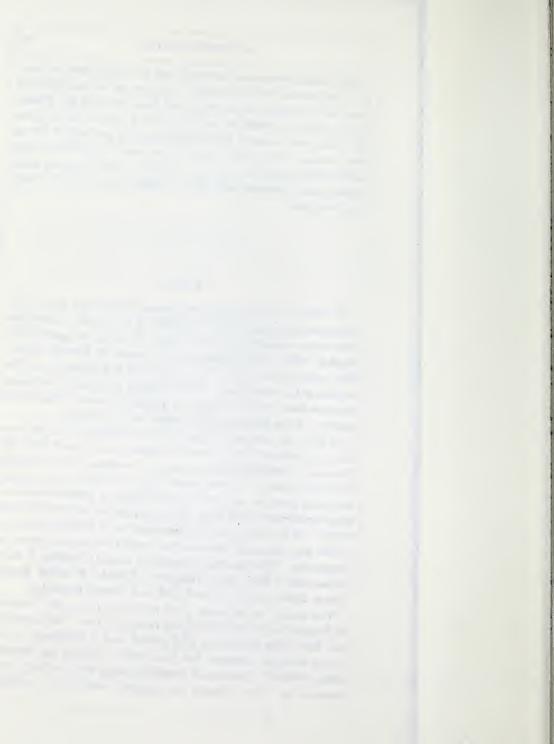
Mr. Cooke's terms were accepted, and he shortly came to Stratfield and entered upon his duties. He took up his residence in a house nearly opposite to that which had been owned by Mr. Chauncey, on the street which is still called after him—Cooke's Lane. Mr. Cooke was a man of much dignity, and his people held him in great respect. On public occasions he always appeared in full ministerial costume, viz: a heavy curled wig, black coat and small clothes, shoes fastened with silver buckles, and over all a large cloak or gown.

III.

As early as the year 1707 services according to the form of the Protestant Episcopal Church were held in the parish of Stratfield. They were conducted by Rev. George Muirson, an agent of the English "Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," who was stationed at Rye, N. Y., but made this journey into Connecticut at the above date. These services were held in a private house, as there was at that time no Episcopal church edifice in the colony. A few persons, mostly adults, were baptized.

In 1748 the number of Episcopalians in Stratfield having considerably increased, they proceeded, under the advice of Rev. Mr. Lamson, of Fairfield, to erect a house of worship, which was called St. John's Church. It was a small frame building with a steeple, and stood upon the east side of Church Lane, a narrow street running north from the old King's Highway, and not far from Division Street. It was the eighteenth Episcopal church built in the colony, and as was frequently the case, was opened for service before its completion. The principal subscribers towards building it were Colonel John Burr, John Holturton, Timothy Wheeler, Joseph Sceley, John Nichols, Richard Hall, and Samuel Beardsley.

This church was for many years supplied by Rev. Mr. Lamson, of Fairfield, who preached in it one Sunday in four. His successor was Rev. John Sayre, also of Fairfield, and a missionary of the society to which reference has been made. During the Revolutionary War this gentleman's sympathies were with the king's government, on which account he incurred considerable hostility.



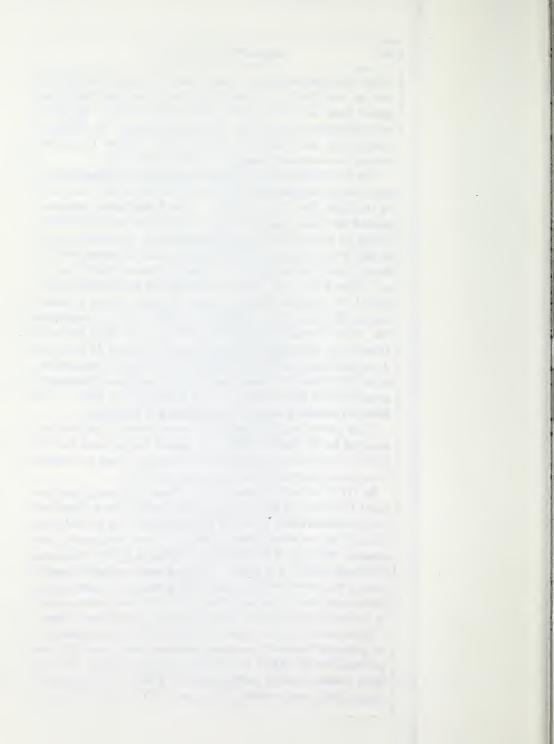
When he no longer deemed it safe to read the prayers for the king and the royal family in his pulpit, he chose to omit the liturgy altogether from his services, and to limit them to reading the Scriptures, singing, and preaching. After the burning of the village of Fairfield by the British, in 1779, he fled to New York, from whence he subsequently emigrated to New Brunswick.

The Episcopal church in Stratfield parish does not appear to have been entirely completed until 1789, in which year it was consecrated by the Right Rev. Bishop Seabury. Rev. Philo Shelton, who commenced his labors about this time, was its first settled minister. Above his remains, which were interred in the Episcopal church, at Mill Plain, Fairfield, (which was also under his charge,) the following inscription was placed: "Under the altar, at which he served more than forty years, are the remains of the Rev. Philo Shel-TON, A. M., rector of Trinity Church, Fairfield. Born at Huntington, May 5th, 1754. Graduated at Yale College, September 9th, 1778. Admitted, August 3d, 1785, to the Holy Order of Deacons, by the Right Reverend Samuel Seabury, D. D., (first American bishop,) and September 18th, 1785, by the same prelate. to the Holy Order of Priests, being the first clergyman Episcopally ordained in the United States. Died February 27th, 1825." Mr. Shelton's remains have since been removed to Bridgeport.

Their present edifice is the third house of worship that has been occupied by St. John's Church, the second having been built in 1801, at the corner of State and Broad Streets, where the Baptist Church now stands, and the present one in 1836.

In 1717, the building upon Meeting-House Hill being found too small for the use of the Congregational Society, a new house was built on the northeast corner of Division Street and the old road. This edifice was taken down in 1834, but some vestiges of it yet remain. The cost of the building, including a gallery, which was afterwards added, was £300. The two sexes occupied opposite sides of the house, and were seated by a committee appointed for that purpose once a year, according to their different social position, or, as the old record quaintly has it, "by dignity, Adge, and a State."

A list, made by Rev. Samuel Cooke, of all the householders in the parish of Stratfield, has been preserved, and a copy of it was published in the DAHLY STANDARD, in the year 1866. Did our limits permit we would gladly re-produce it here. It was arranged alphabetically, and contained the names of 147 heads of families



at that time resident in the place. This would make the total population somewhere about seven hundred persons.

Mr. Cooke died in November, 1747. His successor in the ministry was Rev. Robert Ross, who was born in America of Irish parents, and was educated at Princeton. He was settled in Stratfield in 1754, and continued as pastor of the Congregational Church for more than forty years. He died in 1797, and the grave where rest his remains, and those of his wife, and their only son, who all died within a few days of each other, may be seen in the Stratfield burying-ground.

A remarkable occurrence took place during his ministry. people had assembled for worship on the morning of Sunday, July 28th, 1771. A thunder shower was gathering, but the service went on as usual until the congregation rose and remained standing while the minister led them in prayer. The room grew darker and darker as the heavy clouds rolled up, while the distant muttering of the thunder showed that a fearful storm was impending. The form of the pastor at length became almost invisible in the deepening gloom, but still he prayed on. Suddenly a dazzling glare of light filled the room, revealing in its swift passage the pale faces of the startled worshipers. The crashing peal of thunder which followed drowned the voice of the speaker, and he paused breathless. When the last echo of the thunder had died away, and the people were again left in darkness, there was an interval of awful expectancy. At length a solemn voice from the pulpit broke the stillness with the words—"Are we all here?" For the moment no one could answer; but as the congregation moved out and left the church, it was found that two of the most respected citizens had been taken in an instant from the house of God below into the nobler house not made with hands above. They were two of the best men in the little congregation—Lieutenant David Sherman and Captain John Burr-both of them in full health and in the prime of life. The former lived on Division Street, near the church; the latter in a house where the residence of William Leigh, Esq., now stands. Several other persons were also slightly injured at the same time. It is not surprising to find that after this experience the society voted to place a lightning-rod, then a new invention, upon the meeting-house.

The first Masonic body in this community was organized February 12th, 1762, and has ever since been known by the title of



"St. John's Lodge No. 3 of F. & A. M." As indicated by the number, it was the third institution of the kind in the state, the lodges in New Haven and Middletown only having been established at an earlier date. The first "Worshipful Master" of St. John's Lodge was Captain Eleazer Hubbell.

Before the commencement of the revolutionary war a few families had located themselves upon the west bank of the Pequonnock river, on the ground which is now in the heart of the city of Bridgeport. This was for many years called Newfield, and formed a portion of the town of Stratford. Tradition states that at this time there was no street leading from Stratfield to the harbor, but only a path through the fields. This path was entered through a gate, upon which was a sign bearing the inscription, "Shut the gate."

The outbreak of hostilities found the inhabitants of Stratfield no mere indifferent spectators. Parson Ross, the Congregational clergyman, and the only settled minister in the place, was a strong Whig, and exerted his influence in favor of liberty. During the whole progress of the war he was accustomed to pray every Sabbath from his pulpit for the success of the Americans, never failing to make use of the petition, "that one might put a thousand to flight."

At this time the people of Stratfield were accustomed to resort to a tavern, kept by John Nichols, to discuss politics and war matters. This building is still standing upon the old highway, not far from Mountain Grove Cemetery. Being upon the direct line between New York and Boston, many travelers were entertained within its walls, among whom is supposed to have been General Washington. The following account of his visit is taken from an article published in the Standard about twenty years ago:

"Near that ancient resting-place for the dead—Stratfield burying-ground—passes the highway which for many years was the road between New York and Boston. At the southern edge of this burying-ground, and on the said highway, stands an old building, now the residence of H. K. Haight, Esq., which, prior, during, and subsequent, to the war of the revolution, was used as an inn or public house. It was for a long time kept by one John Nichols, and known for many years as the Big Tavern. General Washington and other distinguished persons of the revolution have lodged within this house, making it a stopping-place on their way to New York or Boston; and the south-east corner room of this tavern is

said to have been occupied as the parlor of the illustrious father of his country. For the gratification of those who desire particulars in regard to the fact that Washington has been within the walls of this house, we would state that we have evidence-in our possession to lead us to assert that General Washington, Major-General Lee, Major Thomas Mifflin, Washington's aide-de-camp, and Samuel Griffin, Esq., General Lee's aide-de camp, stopped at this Stratfield tavern in July, 1775."

It is unpleasant to be compelled to doubt a statement of this kind, particularly when it is supported by "evidence;" but as history hows that Washington arrived in Cambridge, Mass., on the second day of July, 1775, and remained there about a year, we are forced to conclude, either that he rode as fast as the famous John Gilpin after leaving the "Big Tavern," or else that Esq. Sherman's version of the story is the more correct one. This is, that Washington stopped in Stratfield in March, 1781, when on his way to meet Count Rochambeau at Newport.

At one time during the war Nichols' tavern was the depository of a quantity of gunpowder, designed for the defense of the place. A guard was stationed over the building to protect it from the tories.

An incident which took place at this tavern near the commencement of the war, aptly illustrates the spirit which prevailed among the people at the time. Quite a number of persons were present, among them Rev. Mr. Ross, and a blacksmith appropriately named Bangs, whose two sons subsequently became eminent ministers of the Methodist denomination. Some question having arisen as to whether the people of the colonies were willing to make the necessary sacrifices to secure their independence from British tyranny, the sturdy blacksmith arose, and with flashing eye and glowing countenance proclaimed, that for his part he would be willing not only to die, but to suffer eternal punishment, if thereby he could be the means of making America free.

"It is a good thing to be zealous, Brother Bangs, but not too zealous," replied Parson Ross, who was, perhaps, a little alarmed by the vehemence of his parishioner, and calling for his hat the old gentleman took his departure.

At noon upon the second of February, 1775, as we are informed by an old diary kept by one of the residents of the place, there was heard, by the inhabitants of Stratfield, "a report in the gir like



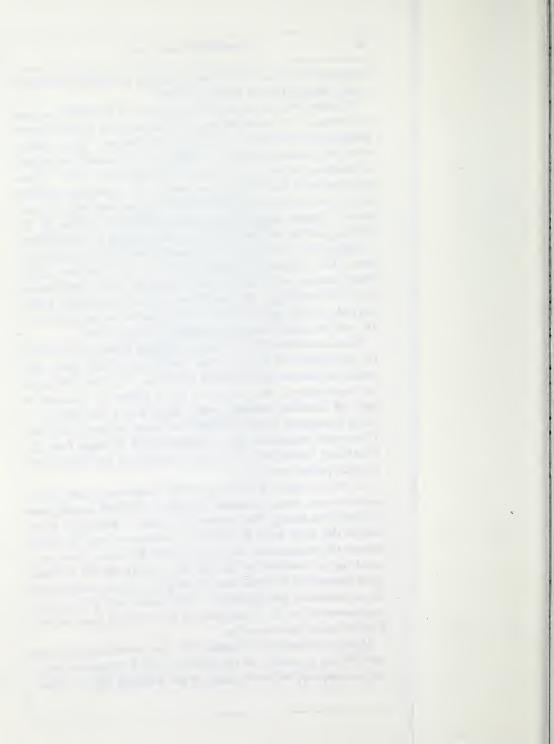
thunder, and a great ball of fire of various colors was seen to fly swiftly through the sky to the eastward."

Whether this was regarded as prophetic of bloodshed we are not informed; but in the latter part of the month of April the news reached the settlement of the battle of Lexington. Much excitement was created, and Captain Abijah Sterling immediately raised a detachment of ten men and marched for the seat of war. Upon their arrival at Hartford they reported to the authorities, but finding that for some cause their services were not required, returned home. Captain Abijah Sterling was grandfather of Iíon. D. H-Sterling, and of the late Hon. Sherwood Sterling, of this city, and a leading man in the place throughout the whole revolutionary period. His residence was upon that part of the old road now called North Avenue, on the knoll, a little west of the Tom Thumb house, and is still standing. He was of fine personal appearance, public spirited, and for many years a representative in the legislature. He was descended from Jacob Sterling, an early settler.

Soon after the battle of Lexington, Captain Brooks, of Stratford, the grandfather of Captain John Brooks, Jr., of this place, was chased in from sea by the British ship Asia. The Asia then made her appearance in the sound, and lay at anchor for a number of days off Stratford, creating much alarm among the citizens, to whom the sight of a British man-of-war was an unprecedented one. Fears were entertained that a landing would be made from the vessel, and houses and other property destroyed; but these apprehensions proved groundless.

In the autumn of 1775 an expedition numbering about eleven hundred men, under command of Colonel Benedict Arnold, was dispatched to attempt the conquest of Canada. Among the members of this force was a detachment of volunteers from Stratfield. Before the departure of the company from the place, it was mustered in the door-yard of Parson Ross, where all the members knelt down while the good man offered prayer for the soldiers, and for the success of their enterprise. The former part of the prayer was answered, for all the members of the company seem to have lived to return home in safety.

Upon the thirteenth of August, 1776, the householders of Stratfield having assembled for the purpose, formed themselves into a militia company, and made choice of the following officers: Heze



kiah Hubbell, Captain; James Hamilton, First Lieutenant; Stephen Burroughs, Second Lieutenant; and Joseph Strong, Clerk.

This company was designed for home defense, and continued in existence throughout the war.

Besides this organization was another which had existed previous to the revolution, and was called the "Stratfield Train Band." It was commanded by Captain Thaddeus Bennet and Lieutenant Edward Burroughs. In the latter part of the month of August, 1776, this company was ordered to join the continental army in New York. While quartered in this place many of the men suffered severely from dysentery, and two of them—David Sherman and Stephen Sterling—were so much reduced that they were discharged by Captain Bennet. Hearing of their condition Abijah Sterling went down to their relief. He found them in a barn near Harlem, unable to move, and brought them home in his chaise, going on foot himself and leading his horse all the way. They eventually recovered, but Lieutenant Burroughs died of the same complaint soon after returning home.

Captain Bennet's company narrowly escaped capture by the British upon the evacuation of New York, owing to not having received the order to retreat in time. It subsequently took part in the battle of White Plains.

We have been permitted to copy an interesting letter from a soldier from this vicinity, who was probably a member of Captain Bennet's company.

New York, August 18th, 1776.

Dear Wife, I Take this opportunity to Write unto You, To Let You Know that I am Well at Present as Can be Expected: that we Traveled on Foot From Fairfield to Norwalk, From thence went on Board & Saild to New York; arrived here yesterday, and Fair well at Present: the Phenix and Rose (two British ships) with Too Tenders came Down the North River this morning, in Consequence of which a Heavy Fire injured the Ships. One Tender was Burnt Last Friday night: the shiping are Dayly Expected To attack this City, which Perhaps will Bring on as hot an Engagement as Ever was Known in America: we are Stationed in Princis Street: Brother Benjamin is well and wants For nothing, with Good Spirits. I would be glad, if Possible Some Body would Take Care of my Business. Send me a Letter as soon as

you Can to Let me Know of Your welfare: my Duty to Parents & Regards to Brethren & Sisters &c.

I Subscribe my Self Your True and Loving Husband, Lewis Fairchild.

In August, 1776, by vote of the Connecticut Legislature, the sum of £180 was ordered to be paid to Captain David Hawley, a resident of Stratfield, to raise a crew of seamen for the naval service of the United States on the lakes, for which service he was appointed captain. Captain Hawley had already distinguished himself by bringing from the West Indies, in the early part of the war, a cargo of gunpowder, which was divided between the towns of Stratford and Fairfield. A part of this powder was that which was stored in Nichols' tavern, in Stratfield.

Captain Hawley's second venture was not so fortunate. He sailed from Stratford on the 17th of March, 1776, in command of a privateer sloop, but when he had been only four days out he was captured by the British man-of-war Bellona, mounting six guns and eight swivels. In an account of his capture, published shortly afterwards in the *Connecticut Courant*, we find the following particulars:

"The British seamen sprung on board eager for plunder, damned Captain Hawley, his crew, and country; he with his men were taken on board the Bellona. About ten at night they joined the Rose, Glasgow, and Swan, men-of war. He with his crew were put on board the Rose, and the next day sailed into Newport. Liberty was given him to get his clothes from his own sloop, but he found his chest broken open, and all his clothes stolen. They offered Captain Hawley 5s. sterling per day, a good cabin for his use, and to pay for his vessel after the war closed, also his choice of a plantation in any part of the continent, if he would act as their pilot, which he refused. In consequence of this he was parted from his men on board the Glasgow, without even the privilege of writing to his mate. The Glasgow, on the fifth of April, sailed from Newport, and after a severe action at sea, arrived at Halifax in eleven days, where Captain Hawley remained two weeks; but on the seventh of May he, with eight others, escaped in a small boat and went to Old York."

In August he received the appointment to which reference has been made, and repaired at once to Lake Champlain. He took à



prominent part in the action upon the lake between the British and American flotillas, on the 11th of October, 1776. This naval battle resulted disastrously to the Americans, owing to the superior force of the enemy, although fought with great gallantry.

TV.

A memorial signed by fifty-seven persons, residing at or near Newfield harbor, was presented to the Legislature in January, 1777. From this paper it appears that this had already become a place of resort for vessels, and that great annoyance had been occasioned by the tories of Newtown, who had repeatedly, in the night, stolen boats and vessels at anchor in the harbor, and put across to Long Island. Fears were also entertained that these marauders would return and burn the place. It was therefore requested that a guard of twenty-five men might be raised, and posted near the entrance of the harbor, to break up the illicit traffic with Long Island, and resist a landing of the enemy, in case one should be attempted. Both the memorial and the names of the fifty-seven signers appended to it, possess considerable local interest, but for want of space cannot be copied here. They may be found in Hinman's Historical Collection.

The prayer of the petitioners was granted by the Assembly, and the command of the guard was given to Lieut. Aaron Hawley, of Newfield. An order was also given him on the foundry at Salisbury, for two small cannon, fifty round shot, and a hundred weight of grape shot. The company was stationed in Stephen Burroughs' store, a small wooden building, upon the only wharf at that time in the place. Its location was near what is now the foot of State Street. Several sentinels were posted upon this wharf, with orders not to permit any boat to pass out of the harbor, if unprovided with a proper clearance. If the boat did not stop when challenged it was to be fired upon.

In May, 1778, Amos Hubbell and other residents of Newfield, petitioned the Legislature to have this guard dismissed, claiming that it was stationed in a place poorly calculated to discover the



approach, or to resist an attack of the enemy, and that great uneasiness had been caused, in consequence, among the people of the place. It was therefore requested that this company might be disbanded, and a small guard posted upon the shore of the Sound, near the boundary line between Stratford and Fairfield.

This request was granted, and Lieut. Hawley ordered to dismiss his men, and turn over the public property in his charge to the Colonel of the Fourth Regiment of State troops, who was directed to detail twelve soldiers, and station them on the site of the present Seaside Park.

Probably this arrangement failed to inspire complete satisfaction, for a little later the old guard was revived, under command of Lieut. William Hall, and again took up its quarters on Burroughs' wharf. They captured many boats attempting to run out of the harbor, which, with their contents, became the property of the soldiers. One of these captures was attended with loss of life. It occured at two o'clock on the morning of the 28th of July, 1782.

A boat attempting to run the guard was hailed by one of the sentinels, and, refusing to stop, was fired upon. Two men, named Stoddard and Judson, were killed by the shots. A third man, named Phineas Baker, was grazed by a bullet, but escaped uninjured. He was captured, with the boat, and after the war was over, resided in Newfield.

Much alarm was excited in this vicinity by the appearance of seven British vessels, which anchored off Southport on the 5th of March, 1777. The Stratfield militia company, under Capt. Abijah Sterling and Lieut. Nathan Seeley, accompanied by the harbor guard, promptly repaired to the spot, where other detaehments of troops had already assembled. Twelve or fourteen boats full of men put off from the fleet, but after a slight skirmish were repulsed, and compelled to return without effecting a landing.

About this time the parish of Stratfield was visited by the scourge of small-pox. The disease arose from infection communicated by exchanged prisoners of war, who had been landed under a flag of truce, on Stratford Point, by the British, in the preceding January. These prisoners were entertained upon their way home by Capt. John Brooks, of Stratford.

Although every precaution was taken against contagion in

Capt. Brooks' family, the disease spread, and quickly communicated itself to the adjoining parishes.

The horror of this complaint can scarcely be imagined by us at the present day. Vaccination, as now practiced, was unknown. Almost every dwelling was a pest house. People feared even to pass along the roads, lest they should receive the dreaded infection. The guard at the harbor forsook their posts. The number of sick at one time in the town of Stratford was estimated at 600 persons. In May, 1777, Timothy Wheeler, and twelve other residents of Stratfield, petitioned the Legislature for relief. This was followed a tow weeks afterward, by another petition, signed by the Rev. Robert Ross, and twenty-one others. In this it was stated that the condition of affairs had become insupportable, and that the people were growing desperate, and even threatened to pull down the infected houses, and shoot the sufferers, if the plague could not be stayed in any other way.

By direction of the Legislature, General Silliman, of Fairfield, who was charged with the coast defense, was authorized to take the matter in hand, and by use of vigorous measures the progress of the scourge was finally stayed.

About this time a company of soldiers was raised in Stratfield, by Lieut. Josiah Lacey, and Ensign John Odell. This company was a part of Col. Philip Bradley's regiment, and Gen. Huntington's brigade.

This brigade was uniformed with red coats, captured in a British vessel by a Connecticut privateer, and it seems to have taken part in the attack upon the British troops, as they were returning to their ships after having pillaged Danbury.

Upon the twelfth of July, 1777, a new church bell was brought to Stratfield, and placed in the belfry of the Congregational meeting house. Upon the same day a woman named Ann Cables broke her arm by falling from the steeple, which circumstance would tend to prove either that the distance from the ground was not great, or that Mistress Ann's bones must have been possessed of more than ordinary elasticity to have sustained but a single fracture by such a fall. This church bell had been re-cast from the metal of the old one, purchased by the Society in 1774, and which for some cause had not proved satisfactory. Wolcot Hawley, the constable, was employed to ring the bell, at a compensation of £4 per annum. It was rung not only before the usual hours of



worship upon the sabbath, and lecture days, but upon week days, at the hours of twelve o'clock noon, and nine in the evening, which was the customary time for retiring.

In July, 1779, a British fleet appeared off Fairfield, and landed a body of soldiers, who first plundered and then burnt the town. Nearly two hundred houses were consumed, and the flames must have been plainly visible both at Stratfield and Newfield. To add to the effect of the scene a thunder storm overspread the heavens while the town was burning, and the dazzling glare of the lightning caused the flames to pale beside it. Doubtless the people of Stratfield expected their own homes to share the same fate. Governor Tryon, however, did not attempt to move any further into the country, but re-embarked his troops before a sufficient force of the Americans had collected to offer him battle.

A few months after this affair General Silliman, of Fairfield, who had command of all the troops in Fairfield County, was surprised and captured in his own house by a party of the enemy from Long Island, led by one Glover, a tory from Newtown, who had formerly been in his employ. His capture created great excitement among the people, and as it was deemed impossible to rescue him, a plan was arranged to capture some royalist who could be exchanged for him. Accordingly one evening in November, 1779, an expedition, commanded by Captain David Hawley, set out from Newfield harbor, in whale-boats, for Long Island. Besides the commander, it was composed of Captains Lockwood and Jones, Lieutenants Jackson and Bishop, and about twenty-five other volunteers. Landing on Long Island they concealed their boats in the bushes near the shore, and the next day marched to Hempstead plains, a distance of fifty miles, where they were successful in capturing Judge Jones, a noted royalist, and brought him off in safety. After a fatiguing night march, in which several of their stragglers were picked up by a British force which pursued them, they reached their boats, and crossing the sound with their prisoner, arrived at Black Rock Harbor. Judge Jones was afterwards exchanged for General Silliman.

Quite a number of prizes, mostly small craft, engaged in contraband trade, were captured in the sound by privateers during the war. On the 29th of May, 1777, Captain David Hawley brought four vessels of this description into Black Rock Harbor, and on the 9th of December, Captain Brown, of Stamford, brought into New-



field Harbor a small schooner laden with provisions which he had captured.

Captain Samuel Smedley, who commanded the brig Defense, the most successful vessel in the colonial navy, was a resident of Strat-field parish before the war. He was afterwards collector of customs, for many years, for the district of Fairfield. One of his prizes taken upon the ocean was the British ship Cyrus, mounting eighteen guns, and laden with a cargo that sold for about £20,000, one of the most valuable captures made during the whole war. At the time of the attack Captain Smedley's own vessel was in a leaky condition, and many of his crew sick with the small pox.

V.

Soon after the close of the revolution, Newfield, as that portion of the place lying contiguous to the river was called, commenced to increase rapidly in size and importance, and new streets were laid out to afford easy access to the water. Among these were State and Main Streets, Water Street and Washington Avenue having existed before the revolution. In Water Street was located all the business of the place. The open space between State and Beaver Streets, from Courtland nearly to Broad, was occupied by a large swamp overgrown with trees and underbrush. A somewhat amusing circumstance is related in connection with this swamp. Not long after the revolution, when the military spirit was still kept up among the people of the state, a muster of the militia from the whole of Western Connecticut took place in this vicinity. Crowds of people were in attendance to witness the display. Among the attractions promised was a sham fight. The soldiery were drawn up in line along the foot of Golden Hill, near where Elm Street now runs. Suddenly a terrific whoop was heard from the swamp, and a large party of men disguised as Indians made their appearance, and with fierce demonstrations commenced an attack upon the militia. The soldiers received the onset with great gallantry, and stood their ground manfully, pouring in heavy volleys of blank cartridges upon the foe.

Among the Indians was one painted savage, who, with a fearful yell, bounded directly towards a group of spectators, whom curios-



ity had urged a little too near the scene. One of its members, a young girl, he grasped in his arms and, in spite of her struggles and screams, bore her away into the recesses of the thicket. Arrived there, the trembling victim who, in her fright, had expected to be tomahawked or scalped, was agreeably surprised to find that her captor was no other than her own brother. He had, unknown to her, engaged in the spectacle, and seeing her standing near, was seized with a sudden impulse to make her the victim of a severe practical joke.

In 1795 Mr. Lazarus Beach, who came to Newfield from Reading, and carried on here the business of printer, book-seller, and stationer, commenced the publication of the first newspaper. It was issued weekly, and was called the AMERICAN TELEGRAPHE. His office was at the corner of Wall and Water Streets, opposite the old Washington Hotel. This paper probably circulated about 800 copies weekly, which were distributed by means of post-riders throughout the whole of Fairfield County.

The following are the names of such other Bridgeport papers as have fallen under our observation:

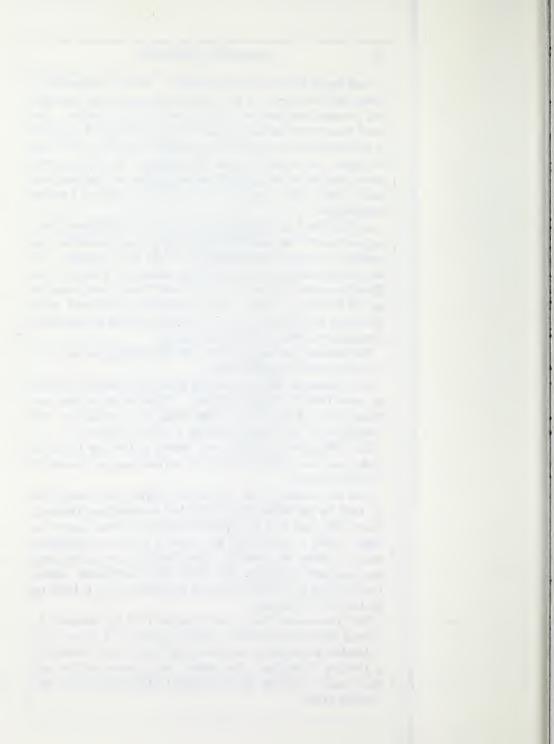
The Bridgeport Herald, a weekly paper, was commenced about the year 1805, by Samuel Mallory. Copies of it are now extremely scarce, much more so than those of its predecessor, the Telegraphe, of which quite a number have been preserved.

The Bridgeport Advertiser was started in 1806, by Hezekiah Ripley, and was published weekly for several years, at the rate of \$1.50 per annum.

The first number of the Republican Farmer was issued April 25, 1810, by Mr. Stiles Nichols, who had removed from Danbury, where the paper had been published under the same name since 1803. From a copy of the first number printed in Bridgeport, which is before us, it would appear that the paper at that early day was well conducted, and edited with considerable ability. The first copy of the Daily Farmer was printed Jan. 1, 1850, by the late W. S. Pomeroy.

The Connecticut Courier was begun in 1810, by Nathaniel L. Skinner, and was continued by him for upwards of a dozen years.

Another paper, called the Connecticut Patriot, was commenced in 1826, by L. Bradley & Co., at their office, corner of Main and State streets, opposite the "Steamboat Hotel," afterwards the Franklin House.



HISTORICAL NOTES.

A newspaper called the Spirit of the Times, published and edited by George W. Smith, Jr., at the corner of State and Water streets, met for a time with considerable success.

This paper was started in 1831, when public feeling ran high on the subject of Masonry, soon after the abduction of the unfortunate Morgan. It was devoted to the cause of Anti-Masonry, and for a while circulated as many as 800 copies. It was afterwards sold to Mr. John Swaine.

The Bridgeport Republican was owned by Edmund Fanton, who had previously gained some notoriety as a lecturer in behalf of Anti-Masonry. Mr. Fanton disposed of his printing material to Mr. A. A. Pettengill. We have been unable to find any copies of this paper.

The Republican Standard was commenced in the year 1839 by A. A. Pettengill, who was both editor and proprietor. In the Spring of 1848 Messrs. II. B. Wildman and J. S. Hanover were admitted to an interest in the business, under the firm name of Pettengill & Co. Upon the 12th of February, 1850, Mr. Wildman retiring, the name of the firm was changed to Pettengill & Hanover. They were succeeded in September, 1863, by Mr. John D. Candee, formerly of New Haven, and Jan. 1, 1867, the concern was organized into a company entitled the Standard Association, by which the business is now carried on.

The tri-weekly edition of the STANDARD was commenced in 1853, and continued until some time in 1854, when it was succeeded by the DAILY STANDARD, which has been continued uninterruptedly until the present time. The success of this favorite paper speaks well for the ability with which it has been conducted, and the circulation of both its daily and weekly editions is believed to be much larger than that of any other paper in this portion of the State, and is still increasing.

The Bridgeport Chronicle was commenced Sept. 9th, 1848, by B. H. Munson, at the corner of State and Water streets. It was issued weekly, at \$1 per annum, and enjoyed but a brief existence.

The same is true of the Bridgeport Leader, which was suspended, owing to "weakness in the chest," after fifteen numbers. It was edited by T. M. Clarke, since editor of the Winsted Herald, and published by the Bridgeport Printing Company. The date upon its first number is March 25, 1854.

Probably few of our readers are aware that a magazine was

ever published in Bridgeport, as this place has always been more distinguished for business enterprise and commercial activity than for devotion to the muses.

In the year 1801, however, a monthly periodical, entitled the Connecticut Magazine and Gentleman's and Lady's Museum, was commenced here by Lazarus Beach and Sheldon Thompson, and continued for twelve months. It was the first of the kind in the State, and the copies which have been preserved evince considerable ability. It was devoted to general literature, and each number was adorned with a fairly executed steel engraving.

We are more familiar with the history of Middlebrook's Almanac, which, although in its sixty-sixth year, shows no marks of decrepitude, and is one of our most welcome visitors. The late Dr. Elijah Middlebrook, who resided a few miles north of this place, originated this valuable little annual, which almost deserves to be called a perennial. Dr. M. was President of the Fairfield County Medical Association, and his attainments, both as a mathematician and a physician, were remarkable, and are still held in remembrance by our older inhabitants.

The Borough of Bridgeport was incorporated by a special Act of the Legislature, in October, 1800. It was the first borough in the State, and the idea seems to have been suggested by Mr. Joseph Backus, of this place, who made the draft of the charter, and circulated the petition for the Act of Incorporation. The new borough still continued, however, to form a part of the town of Stratford, and the people were obliged to go to that place to vote. The principal magistrate of the borough was called a Warden, and the office was first held by Capt. Amos Hubbell.

The town of Bridgeport was set off from Stratford by an Act of the Connecticut Legislature, passed in May, 1821. The town, at that time, was reported to contain about 1,700 inhabitants, and 218 dwelling houses. There were also, within its limits, 2 flouring mills, and 73 stores and manufactories. The number of the taxable polls was 235, and the valuation of property, according to the returns made by the Assessors for that year was \$24,701.

In the year 1836, the borough, and a portion of the town of Bridgeport, were chartered as a city by the Legislature.

The following is the record of the last Borough Meeting:

"Whereas-an Act was passed by the General Assembly at the

May Session of 1836, whereby the borough of Bridgeport, together with a part of the town of Bridgeport were incorporated with City privileges, and whereas a section in the said Act made null the Act whereby the Borough of Bridgeport was incorporated, on the first Monday in October 1836;

"Now I, Daniel Sterling, Warden of the Borough of Bridgeport do hereby adjourn forever this Borough Meeting.

"Dated at Bridgeport, September 30th, 1836.

"DANIEL STERLING,

"Warden."

VI.

The Bridgeport Bank was for many years the only institution of the kind in the place. Its charter was granted in 1806, and shortly afterward it commenced business in a house upon the west side of Water Street, near State, which is no longer standing. The Director's meetings were held at Ezra Gregory's tavern, on Main Street. Isaac Bronson was the first President, and George Hoyt the first Cashier. The present banking house was completed The lot upon which it stands was originally much larger, extending northward, and embracing the site of Birdsey & Morgan's store. It was purchased a few years before the erection of the building, for the sum of \$1,000. The first officers of the Connecticut Bank, were Capt. Ezekiel Hubbell, President, and Charles Foote, Cashier. It was incorporated in 1831, and was located on the north corner of Wall and Water streets, but after the great fire of 1833, the directors purchased a lot on Main Street, and built its present edifice.

The Bridgeport Savings Bank was chartered by the Legislature in 1842, there being at the time but eight institutions of the kind in the State. Smith Tweedy was the first President, and Deacon George Sterling, who has now been connected with the Bank for nearly thirty years, the first Treasurer.

The principal public houses of the borough were four in number, and it is worthy of notice that three of them were destroyed

by fire. The Steamboat Hotel, afterwards the Franklin House, on the corner of State and Main streets, where the Opera House now stands, was burned in February, 1868. Ezra Gregory's tavern, on Main Street, was consumed in the fire of 1833. The site is now occupied by the Sterling House. The Bulls Head Tavern was on the south side of State Street, between Broad and Lafayette, and remained standing until quite a recent period fourth was the old Washington Hotel, on the south-west corner of Wall and Water streets. On the 20th of August, 1824, during his celebrated visit to this country, General Lafayette stood upon the piazza of this hotel to receive the citizens of Bridgeport, as they were introduced to him by a committee of reception, composed of Gen. Enoch Foote, Capt. Zalmon Hubbell, who had been an Ensign in the Continental Army, and others. An interesting account of the affair was published at the time in the Connecticut Courier. This public house, also, was subsequently burned.

The first Methodist minister to visit this place was the celebrated Jesse Lee, who preached to a small company in the house of a Mrs. Wells, on Division Street, in the summer of 1789. This house continued for many years to be the resort of itinerant preachers of the denomination. The Methodist Society afterwards worshipped in the old Congregational meeting house, on the corner of Division Street and the old road. Their present spacious edifice, on the corner of Broad and Beaver streets, was built in 1849, on the site of a former one, which was burned.

The Congregational Society removed from Stratfield to Bridgeport in 1808. Their new church, which was upon the site of the present North church, was creeted by subscription, and for a while was occupied but two-thirds of the time. On the remaining Sabbaths worship was still held in the old meeting house, but this arrangement was afterwards discontinued. In 1826 a town clock was purchased by the borough, and by permission was placed on the Congregational Church. The first Sunday School in town was organized in connection with this society, by Mr. Platt Beardsley, about the year 1814.

In January, 1830, Deacons William Deforest, Stephen Hawley, and Josiah B. Baldwin, with 114 other members of this church, were dismissed at their own request, for the purpose of forming a new Congregational Church. They were given one-half the Church property and funds, and the old society also contributed



the sum of \$2,000 towards the erection of their church edifice. This building was soon completed, and on the 30th of November, in the same year, was dedicated, Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt, D. D., the pastor elect, preaching a powerful sermon upon the occasion.

The Baptist Society, in this place, was organized in July, 1835. The church at first met for worship in a wooden building, on the site of its present edifice, (corner of State and Broad streets,) which was purchased of St. John's Episcopal Society for the sum of \$3,000. Rev. Mr. Linsley, of Stratford, supplied the pulpit for a time, but in 1838 Rev. James W. Eaton, of Boston, was settled as their first pastor.

In 1821 a map of Bridgeport, upon an extended scale, was drawn by the late Joseph Backus. This has been preserved from destruction by the care of Mr. William R. Bunnell, of the Historical Committee of the Bridgeport Library, and is now in possession of the Association. The first engraved map of Bridgeport was taken from a survey made by Mr. H. L. Barnum, and was published in 1824. Several copies of it are in existence, and there is reason to hope that before long it may be re-published, as such an interesting memento of the early days of Bridgeport deserves to be perpetuated.

The first fire known to have taken place in Newfield was upon the 8th of September, 1796. On that evening the building upon the corner of State and Water streets, occupied by the brothers David and John DeForest, as a dry goods and grocery store, was discovered to be burning. The flames were with difficulty extinguished, but not until a large portion of the goods had been destroyed. On going into the building a horrible spectacle presented itself. The clerk, a young man named Shelton Edwards, aged about fifteen years, was discovered to have been murdered by blows of a hammer upon his head, after which his throat had been cut. Contrary to the general impression that "murder will out," the perpetrators of this deed were never discovered. Two men were indeed arrested, upon suspicion, but as there was no evidence sufficient to fasten it upon them they were discharged, and the case remains a mystery to this day.

By this occurrence the attention of the people was called to the utter want of any safeguard against a conflagration, and a Fire Department was soon organized. The money for equipping it, amounting to \$375, was collected by subscription, and in 1798 a



special Act of the Legislature was obtained, authorizing the raising of an engine company. It contained twelve men, and the names of the first officers were: John S. Cannon, Foreman; William Peet, Engineer; and David Sterling, Sergeant.

The steamboat Lafayette, Capt. Thomas Vose, made her first trip from Derby to New York, Sept. 28, 1824, touching at Bridgeport upon the way. The appearance of the Lafayette in this harbor excited great enthusiasm, and was announced in the papers of the day as an event of wonderful importance.

Upon the 16th of April, 1832, the steamer Citizen, Capt. Brooks, commenced running from Bridgeport to New York, and in July, 1834, the Nimrod, Capt. John Brooks, Jr., and the Fairfield, Capt. Peck, were put upon the same route.

The burning of the steamer Lexington in the Sound, upon the 13th of January, 1840, by which so many lives were sacrificed, was visible from Bridgeport, though a better view could be obtained from Black Rock Harbor, where many people collected upon the shore, gazing with a sort of fearful fascination at the scene, though unable to render the sufferers any aid.

The Housatonic R. R. was incorporated in May, 1836, and was completed as far as New Milford in December, 1839. It was designed by its projectors to be the main thoroughfare between New York and Albany, but though the road has latterly been quite successful, their anticipations have never been fully realized. The New York and New Haven, and the Naugatuck Railroads commenced running trains from this place about the year 1849. The late Mr. Alfred Bishop, a resident of Bridgeport, was the contractor for building all of the above roads, and to his enterprise and public spirit, much of the prosperity of this city is due.

A few notes remain to be added respecting the Pequonnock River, the changes in its course, and the buildings which stood upon its banks.

Many years before the Revolutionary War, the parish grist mill, which was owned successively by Josiah Smith, Stephen Burroughs, and others, stood upon the Pequonnock River, nearly opposite the present reservoir. The woolen mills, which occupy about the same site, were commenced in 1827, by the late Mr. Daniel Thatcher, but in 1832 were purchased and greatly enlarged by the Pequonnock Manufacturing Company, composed of Messrs. Thomas F. and James F. Bunnell, of New York, and Dr. Thomas



The immense dam which stretches Fitch, of Philadelphia. across the river at this point has several times been swept away by the resistless force of heavy spring freshets. Old residents well remember the devastation caused in 1836 and 1843 by the rushing torrent, and relate many incidents connected with these inundations. Each time the mills were seriously damaged, and the banks of the river were strewn with fragments of costly machinery, woolen fabrics, and portions of the buildings. houses along its course were flooded, and a grist mill upon the east side of Berkshire pond was lifted from its foundations, and carried bodily down the stream. A haystack upon which a confiding hen had built her nest was borne down the tide into the Sound, whence it was towed ashore; the feathered navigator being found uninjured, though badly demoralized by the alarm occasioned by her unexpected ride. The fair and fertile meadows below the mills were totally ruined after these freshets, by the immense quantity of stones and gravel, the debris of the dam, which was deposited upon them, as may be seen at this day.

The bridge below these factories, which was constructed before the Revolution, was the earliest one built across the river. The head of Berkshire pond, which is a little farther south, was then the principal trading and landing place for vessels, as it possessed a depth of water much greater than at present, equal in fact to that of the outer harbor. Within its bosom, concealed by the surrounding forests, privateers lay securely at anchor, hidden from the view of the enemy, who might chance to be passing up or down the Sound. Upon its shores were three ship-yards, where many vessels were constructed. The well-known Berkshire mill has been built for many years, having been enlarged and repaired by its present owner. There have been several dams across the river where the present one is now situated. two were built by Mr. James French, but he was compelled to remove them as obstructions to navigation, as he had obtained no charter from the legislature. The third dam was constructed during an extremely dry season, when the water at all the other mills had failed. The prudent miller this time required each customer to sign his application for a charter before he would grind his grist. In this way he finally succeeded in obtaining it. People were accustomed to bring their grain hither from all the neighboring country for miles around.



The mill on the east side of Berkshire pond was built by Gen. Enoch Foote.

The course of the river has materially changed within the past forty or fifty years. This is shown by the fact that when Capt. Daniel Sterling built his house, which is still standing on the upper part of Main Street, there was sufficient water at the foot of his garden to launch a vessel, in which he afterwards made a foreign voyage. The brig Leopard was also launched from a ship yard near the corner of Wall and Water streets. A little way south of Capt. Sterling's house was a pottery which stood upon the lot at the foot of Fulton Street, west of the present line of the Housatonic R. R. Vessels used to come up to this pottery and receive their cargoes, and fragments of earthern ware may still be picked up on the ground where it stood.

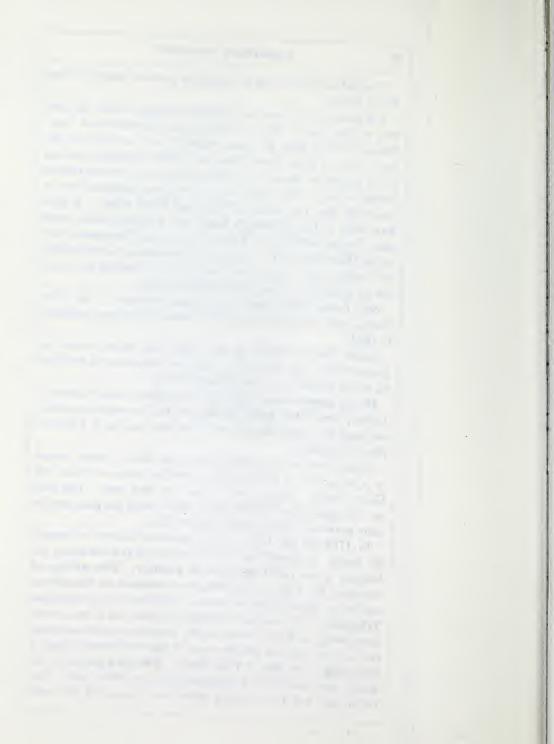
Still further south, near the western terminus of the New Bridge, were extensive salt-works, as shown by the map published in 1824.

Below Porter's Rocks, as the Point was called, where the Boiler Works now stand, was a wide bay, which set in nearly as far as the present site of the Atlantic House.

On the opposite side of the river was a place called "Granny's Hollow," from what *genius loci* we are lost in conjecture, where the water was quite deep, even at low tide, making it a favorite place for bathing.

Before there was any bridge across the harbor people crossed at a ferry, from a point of land near the corner of Water and Union streets. Wagons were taken over in a scow. The road on the other side followed along the shore of the point until it came to another ferry, opposite Yellow Mill.

In 1793 the old Lottery Bridge across the harbor was opener' for travel. It derived its name from the fact that the money for building it was raised by means of a lottery. The privilege of collecting the tolls on this bridge was disposed of annually at auction, as appears by advertisements published in the "American Telegraphe." Its eastern extremity was near that of the present lower bridge, and some traces of the abutments which supported the western end can still be seen at low tide, under the dock a little north of the foot of Wall Street. The draw parted in the middle, and was raised by means of pulleys on either side. The bridge was not very securely built, being supported by trestle



work, and eventually lost its balance and fell into the water, thus setting a pernicious example to all succeeding bridges. The draw floated down the stream, grounding on the point now occupied by the American Silver Steel Company. The bridge was never repaired, and in 1807 its remnants were removed, and a new one, which is still standing, was constructed a little further up stream.

About the year 1850, a number of streets were opened, and public improvements commenced in East Bridgeport. Prior to that time this portion of the place had contained but a score or two of houses, and the land was either entirely unimproved, or used only for farming purposes. The advantages of East Bridgeport for manufacturing, now began to be apparent, and a number of large establishments were induced to remove their works hither. This gave a new impetus to the growth of Bridgeport, the main portion of the city benefitting as well, by the increase of population and of business.

During the twenty years which have elapsed since that time, wonderful progress has been made in every direction, and without exaggeration it may be said that, in many respects, Bridgeport is now the model city of the State.

We would gladly continue our narrative down to the present time, but the limits of this sketch have already been far exceeded.

The history of the growth of manufacturing in this place, the description of our hundreds of establishments where sewing machines, carriages, weapons of warfare, pumps, steam engines, steel, and hundreds of other articles too numerous to specify, are produced for the consumption of the world; of our public improvements, buildings, bridges, streets, gas and water works, public library, and the beautiful Seaside and Washington Parks, of 'he new territory recently annexed, together with sketches of eminent citizens, living and deceased; all these, as well as the honorable part borne by our people in the recent great conflict for the maintenance of the Union, and the extension of freedom to the oppressed, must be deferred until another occasion.



CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS

IN AND ABOUT BRIDGEPORT FROM MAY 1st, 1870, TO MAY 1st, 1871.

MAY, 1870.

- 1. Rev. J. J. Harrison, new rector of Christ Church, officiated for the first time since his acceptance of the call to that parish.
- 2. Steamer J. B. Schuyler commenced running regular trips for the season.
- 3. Cigar store of Charles Dochterman, No. 1 Bank Street, destroyed by fire; insured for \$1,500.—Joseph Seddon died, aged 50.
- 4. James E. English inaugurated governor of the state at New Haven; Companies B and E, C. N. G., and a portion of the police force from Bridgeport, took part in the ceremonies.
- 6. Cigar store of Keeler and Holli-ter, E. D., burglarized.
- 8. Laura Barras died, aged 14.
- 9. Lewis Johnson, aged 15, fell through the elevator at Howe's sewing machine factory, causing compound fracture of the right leg.—William E. Disbrow, in attempting to stop a runaway team belonging to the city, was knocked down and badly injured.—South Penn Hose Company, of Philadelphia, arrived in town, accompanied by Beck's Band No. 1, to take part in the fire department parade.
- Annual parade of the Bridgeport Fire Department.—Walter Fitch, late adjutant of the 6th Connecticut Volunteers, died, aged 29.
- William T. Fish, of Lee, Mass., seized with paralysis at the depot; taken to the Atlantic Hotel.—Annual meeting of the Bridgeport Orphan Asylum.
- Judge Butler, of Norwalk, appointed Chief Justice of Connecticut, by unanimous vote of both Houses of the legislature.
 —Stephen M. Raymond, of Bridgeport, died in New Haven, aged 34.



- 13. Mrs. Skinner, wife of John Skinner, a well known carman in this city, died, aged 39.—Funeral of the late Adjutant Walter Fitch attended from St. John's Church.—Lecture by Dr. Thomas Barsley, (colored.) M. D. P. M., at Washington Hall; subject—the Fifteenth Amendment, Washington, Lafayette, Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant.—Charles Hawkins severely injured by falling from a scaffold.
- 16. Fire in Willard Street, E. D., caused by the explosion of a kerosene lamp.
- 17. Joshua Lord, of Bridgeport, appointed commissioner of Fairfield County.
- E. Allen Parrott, town clerk and registrar of Bridgeport for fifteen years, died, aged 70.—Second annual report of the Bridgeport Orphan Asylum, showing balance on hand of \$3,524.36.
- 19. William E. Smith, E. D., died, aged 38.
- Funeral of E. Allen Parrott attended from his residence on Broad Street.
- Captain Edward W. Coffin died, aged 68.—Mrs. E. De F. Hawley, of Bridgeport, died in Chicago, after a long and painful illness.—Mrs. Theodore W. Curtis died, aged 29.
- 23. Channey M. Hatch appointed town clerk and registrar to fill vacancy caused by the death of E. Allen Parrott.—Departure of Bridgeport Fenians to join in the Raid on Canada.
- 24. Annie Millington died, aged 31.—Another lot of Fenians started for Canada.—Annual statement of the Bridgeport Protestant Widows Society submitted to the legislature at New Haven.—Meeting of the Pembroke Burial-Ground Association, E. D., to consider the expediency of exchanging the grounds.
- 25. Great Fenian meeting at Lyceum Hall.—Lieutenant Edward Hope and Private Francis Carraher, both of Bridgeport, wounded in the Fenian repulse at St. Armand, Canada.
- 26. Departure of another company of Fenians for the seat of war in Canada.—S. W. Hough, private watchman at B. Ray & Sous, fired upon and wounded a would-be horse thief.—Second great Fenian meeting at Lyceum Hall.
- 27. Return of Lieutenant Edward Hope and Private Carraher wounded, from the Canadian frontier.



- 28. Severe storm on Long Island Sound; steamer J. B. Schuyler five hours late.—Captain John Fitzpatrick, Frank Connary, and about half of the Bridgeport company returned from the seat of war in Canada.
- 29. Memorial service at the East Bridgeport Methodist Episcopal Church, "In honor of our fallen heroes."—T. Swan's barn, near the corner of Main and Water Streets, destroyed by fire.
- 30. Decoration day; flowers placed upon the graves of sixty-seven soldiers buried in Bridgeport; grand procession of the military, fire department, and the various temperance and charitable societies, and others; oration by Captain A. B. Beers, at Sca-Side Park; original poem by Samuel B. Sumner, Esq.—Frances E., wife of Charles A. Bacon, died.—Return of the remainder of the Bridgeport boys from the seat of war in Canada.
- 31. Large delegation of citizens went to New Haven to favor and oppose the "Annexation Scheme" before the committee on incorporations.—Return of Mr. O'Herron, special agent from Bridgeport to the Fenians at St. Albans.—Washburne and Connelly, escaped prisoners from Bridgeport jail, captured at Darien.

JUNE.

- 1. P. F. Barnum, United States Marshal, commenced taking the census of Bridgeport.
- 4. Launch of the Yacht "Maggie B," at Norwalk.—Fall of scaffolding at S. C. Kingman's new house, E. D.; three men injured.
- 6. Annual meeting and election of officers of Rescue Hook and Ladder Company No. 4.
- 7. Annual meeting and election of officers of Fountain Hose Company No. 3.
- 8. Orphan Asylum opened to the public; poem composed by Rev. J. G. Davenport, for the occasion, read by Mr. J. N. Ireland.
- Return of the steam yacht "Pioneer," from Annapolis.—Olivet Lodge No. 139 I. O. G. T., instituted with twenty members.
- Jennie A. Wettergreen died, aged 25.—John Henninger, aged
 16, run over and killed in attempting to jump on the car's in
 East Bridgeport.



- 12. William C. Dowd, of this place, died in New York, aged 29.
- 13. Re-union of the Bridgeport Veterans of the 14th Connecticut Volunteers, at the residence of Colonel Dwight Morris, Fairfield Avenue.—Four human skeletons exhumed while excavating for the cellar of Tomlinson's Block, corner of Main and Union Streets.—Case of Dr. Barsley vs. Nichols tried before Judge Powell.
- 14. Funeral of William C. Dowd from Methodist Episcopal Church, Beaver Street.—William and George Reid drowned while in bathing off Cook's Point.
- 15. The stores of J. M. Samis & Co. and Morford & Trubee entered by burglars.
- Excursion of railroad and steamboat presidents and other prominent railroad and steamboat men on board of Major Mallory's steam yacht.
- 18. First open air concert of the season, at Sea-Side Park, by the Wheeler & Wilson Band.
- 19. Annual religious festival of Rose Sunday celebrated at the Universalist Church.—Charles Banks died, aged 67.
- 21. Mrs. George W. Wheeler died, aged 61.
- 22. Trial of Dr. Barsley—the greatest since that of Pickwick and Bardell—adjourned from the 13th inst.—Yacht race between the "Bella," of Brooklyn, and "Tiger," of Bridgeport, off Sea-Side Park; won by the Bella.
- 23. Second race between the "Bella" and "Tiger;" the Tiger again beaten.—Charter Oak Temple instituted by G. W. T. D. M. S. Wells.
- 24. Thermometer 98° in the shade.—Fire at Tomlinson Spring and Axle Company.
- 25. Thermometer 101° in the shade.—Barns and stables of Captain Harry Wheeler, on Park Avenue, destroyed by fire.
- John Woods, sun struck yesterday, died to-day.—Charles N. Ward died, aged 42.
- 27. William Hayes died, aged 50.
- 28. Thermometer 101° in the shade.
- 30. Bill to annex a pertion of Fairfield to Bridgeport passed the Senate.

JULY.

 Bill to annex a portion of Fairfield to Bridgeport passed the House.



- 2. President Grant and suite drove through the city; immense concourse of citizens and people from the surrounding towns.
- 3. Joseph Gerard, comrade G. A. R., died, aged 38.
- 4. INDEPENDENCE DAY.—The "J. B. Schuyler" excurshed to New Haven.—The "Bridgeport" dittoed around the lightship.
- 5. Walter Sterling, a resident of Bridgeport, and for twentynine years engineer on the Housatonic Railroad, died in Great Barrington, aged 54.
- 6. William Biermann died, aged 52.—Arrest of Ab. Gill, by Officer Arnold, after an exciting chase.
- 8. Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Lombard concluded their engagement with the Prospect Street School.
- 11. The body of Mrs. Patrick Dowling found in the harbor, just north of the lower bridge.
- 13. Frederick A. Beardsley, formerly of Bridgeport, died in San Francisco, aged 40.
- 14. Net profits of the "Drummer Boy" announced; five hundred dollars, for the Soldiers Monument Fund.—Adolphus Stirn, painter, fell from R. McCoy's new stable buildings, and severely injured.—The house of Hon. S. B. Beardsley burglarized, and a quantity of jewelry stolen; capture and arrest of the thieves.
- 16. Wheeler & Wilson Band gave an open air concert in Stratford.
- 17. Thermometer 105° in the shade.
- 18. Patrick Gormley sun-struck, and died within an hour, aged 24.
- 19. Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias holding their semi-annual session in Bridgeport.
- 20. Charles H. Minor died, aged 15.
- 21. Lucius P. Allis died, aged 48.
- 22. Return of the Yachts "Clarence" and "Fanchon," under the command of Commodore McNiel.
- 23. City Band gave an open air concert on the Green at Fairfield.
- 25. Steamer "Sylvan Grove" excurshed from Bridgeport to New London.—Thomas B. Taylor died, aged 65.—John Keppy died from effects of sun stroke.—Edmund Barry died from effects of sun-stroke.
- 27. John Conway lost the ends of two fingers and a thumb by a buzz saw.



- 28. Peter W. Vredenburg died, aged 42.
- 29. S. Marcus Nichols died, aged 32.
- 30. Steamer "Sleepy Hollow" arrived with a party of excursionists from Staten Island.—Miss Katie La Farge drowned near Fairchilds' paper-mill.—Major Murphy returned from his captivity.—Fresh Pond school-house entirely destroyed by fire.
- 31. Funeral of S. Marcus Nichols attended from St. John's Church.

AUGUST.

- Josephine Lyon died, aged 61.—Mrs. Caroline Wooster died, aged 53.
- 2. Excursion of the Sedgwick Guard to Danbury.—Fall of the iron front of the opera house in process of erection.
- 3. John Brock died, aged 42.
- 4. Fat men's "clam bake" at Gregory's Point, Norwalk.
- Second annual re-union of the 9th Connecticut Volunteers at G. A. R. Hall, and clam bake at Long Beach.—Mr. Lester drowned while in bathing at Cook's Point.
- 9. James Martin, proprietor of restaurant, No. 94 Water Street, died, aged 39.
- 12. John Handlin drowned near Lyon, Curtis & Co's lumberyard.—Heaviest thunder storm of the season.
- 13. Lizzie M. Booth, of Bridgeport, died in Brookfield, Mass., aged 37.—Census of Bridgeport completed; total population, (not including annexed district,) 19,876.
- 18. Forty-seven vessels lying at the wharves.
- 25. John McKenna died, aged 70.
- 28. Andrew Winslow, formerly of Bridgeport, died in Meriden.
- 29. R. H. Standish thrown from his wagon and badly hurt.—Seth
 B. Jones, an old resident and enterprising citizen, died, aged
 71.
- 30. Great base ball contest at Sea-Side Park; Dry Goods vs. Drugs.

SEPTEMBER.

- 1. Large oyster fleet off the harbor.
- 2. Race at the Trotting Park between "Paine" and "White Fawn," won by "Paine."
- 3. A party of Bridgeporters started for "Bash Bish Falls."



- 4. Mrs. Alfred C. Short, of Bridgeport, died in Bethel.—William Tilton died suddenly.
- 5. The Court of Common Pleas for Fairfield County in session for the first time.
- 7. Mrs. John Neville died, aged 31.
- 8. Re-union of the Second Connecticut Light Battery at Gregory's Point, Norwalk.—Mrs. Mary E. Wethstein died, aged 38.—Miss Fanny G. Bateman died, aged 14.
- Frederick C. Silliman died, aged 19.—Edward McMullen died.
- 11. Mrs. Sarah A. Kirtland died, aged 46.
- 12. German theatrical entertainment at "Turne Halle" for the benefit of wounded soldiers in the German army.
- Miss Mary L. Zeller died, accidentally poisoned.—Capt. William B. Howes, of Black Rock, died in Newtown, aged 53.
- 14. Third annual session of the 6th C. V., and clam bake at Long Beach.—John Cummings, Jr., died, aged 16.
- 16. Reunion of the 14th C. V. at New Britain.
- 17. Daniel Parshall died, aged 60.
- Thomas R. Walton died, aged 31.—Attempted suicide by George H. Roberts.
- 19. John Lancaster lost two fingers at the Crossly Works.
- 20. Reunion of the 23d Reg't, C. V., at Bethel.
- Miss Mary B. Treat died.—F. C. Bowman attempted suicide.
- 22. Reunion of the 13th C. V. at Sca View House, West Haven.
- 25. Great fire corner of Middle and Beaver St.
- 26. William Reddy, spring maker, died suddenly.
- 27. "Camp of the Innocents" established a few miles north of the city.
- 28. Reunion of the Cavalry Association, and clam bake at Mills.
- Annie Laurie Warwick (Gibbs) Lake died, aged 21.—Mrs. John Dinon died, aged 28.

OCTOBER.

- 2. Israel Kendrick drowned, off Seaside Park, aged 24.
- 3. Preparations commenced toward building addition to Prospect St. School House.



- 4. Charlie Ingraham died, aged 11.
- 5. Town Meeting to consolidate the Pequonnock and Island Brook School Districts.
- Steamer "Bridgeport" broke her port shaft coming through Hell Gate.
- 13. Mrs. Hannah M. Patterson, formerly of Bridg-port, died at Cambridge, Mass., aged 23.
- Great hurricane at Matansas, W. I., schr. Edwin, of Bridgeport, wrecked.
- P. T. Barnum, D. W. Sherwood, Geo. A. Wells, James Wilson, C. A. Hotchki-s, D. M. Read, and T. W. Downs, started for Colorado, for a buffalo hunt.
- 18. First appearance of Lottie Fowler, at the "Atlantic."—First day of the Fifth Annual Convention of the Y. M. C. A.—Franklin Hitchcock and wife, both formerly of Bridgeport, lost at sea, on board steamer "Varuna."
- 21. Rev. Geo. Richards died.
- 22. Fire at the Pacific Iron Works.
- 23. Mrs. Catherine Gregg died, aged 24.
- 24. Funeral of Rev. George Richards, from the North Church.

 —First meeting of the Professors of the Sheffield Scientific School, at the Superior Court Room —Mary L. Hayward died, aged 21.
- 26. Mrs. P. C. Marsh died, aged 41.
- 30. William H. Peet died, aged 20.—Moses Platt died, aged 87.
- 31. Mrs. George M. Hubbell died.

NOVEMBER.

- Corner Stone of the E. Bridgeport Cong. Church laid.—Lucius Curtis died, aged 84.
- George Mallory, Esq, fell from a scaffolding, and severely injured.—Richard McGregor died, aged 68.
- 6. Rev. Edwin Johnson entered upon his duties as pastor elect of the South Cong. Church.
- Patrick Brady run through the thigh by a piece of red hot steel, at the American Silver Steel Works. Died next day.—Miss Isabel Depew died, aged 16.
- 8. Rev. Edwin Johnson installed over the South Cong. Church.

- —Hugh Masterson broke a leg by the upsetting of a wagon.
- 9. Mrs. Traverse Swan died, aged 70.
- Olivet Hall, cor. Washington Av. and Grand St. dedicated by Olivet Lodge, I. O. G. T.
- 11, William S. Pomeroy, senior editor of the Farmer, died, aged 61.
- Major Mallory's new steam yacht made its first appearance in the harbor.
- 13. Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Bridgeport Bible Society, at the North Church.
- 14. Funeral of William S. Pomeroy, late senior editor of the Farmer, from Trinity Church.
- 16. Olivet Church organized .- John Fitzgibbons died, aged 25.
- 19. First snow of the season.
- 21. Mrs. William C. Vans died, aged 58.
- Mrs. Henry B. Cox died, aged 21.—Terrible gale on Long Island Sound.
- 24. THANKSGIVING DAY.
- 25. Two little boys, Albert and Willie Siviter, drowned in East Bridgeport.
- 28. Margaret McLaughlin died at the Jail.
- 29, Slight explosion at the Cartridge Factory.
- Terrible explosion at the U. M. Cartridge and Cap Factory.
 Achille Zajotti killed.

DECEMBER.

- William M. Hurd had three fingers cut off at Swords & Stillsons.
- 2. Lottie Fowler arrested for fortune telling.
- 3. Fire at Belknap and Burnham's.
- 6. Trial of Lottie Fowler commenced.
- 7. Mrs. Isaac Blake died, aged 84.
- 8. Miss Fannie Allen, aged 17.
- Augustus N. Wood killed at the Railroad crossing, near Lyon & Curtis' Lumber Yard.—Alanson B. Beers died, aged 22.
- Last trip of the "Schuyler" for the season.—Lottie Fowler acquitted by Judge Bullock.



- 11. Public seance by Lottie Fowler, at Lyceum Hall. Her agent, Col. Filley, runs away with the funds.
- 12. Mrs. G. C. Bateman, of this city, died in Hartford, aged 49.
- 13. Fairfield Co. Sunday School Teacher's Association, at South Norwalk.—Henry Hall garrotted and robbed.
- 14. Rev. D. B. Dodge installed pastor of Olivet Church.
- Charles A. Ray, of Bridgeport, died in Jacksonville, Fla., aged 26.—Chas. H. Havens died, aged 33.
- 17. New Bridge submitted to a pig iron test.
- Lewis Feeley died, aged 40.—Mrs. Thomas Rowe died, aged 44.
- 19. Woman Suffrage Convention at Franklin Hall.
- 21. Samuel B. Hall died, aged 54.
- 22. First funeral passed over the New Bridge.
- 23. Mrs. Charles Mallett died, aged 58.
- 25. CHRISTMAS.
- 26. Opening of the "Opera House." Poem by S. B. Sumner, Esq. The "Honeymoon" presented by J. B. Studley and Miss Ida Vernon.—Mrs. John O'Connors died.
- Sammy Andrews arrested on complaint of Mrs. Gridley.
 Discharged next day.—Miss Josephine Platt died, aged 20.
- 30. Thermometer at zero at sunrise.—Mrs. Mary Louisa Archer died, aged 37.
- 31. Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor died, aged 50.

JANUARY.

- 1. New Years. Mrs. Eliza Grant died, aged 74.
- 2. Thos. Rowe, formerly of County Cavan, Ireland, died.
- 3. Henry Sturges, aged 15, fell on an icy pavement, and died next day.
- 4. Installation of officers at Steuben Lodge, No. 83, I. O of O. F.
- 6. John Brady, a painter, fell from a ladder on Broad St., and seriously injured.—Miss Sadie S. Moore died, aged 28.
- 7. L. H. Wilson thrown from his carriage, and severely injured.
- 10. Rev. J. D. Potter, the Evangelist, commenced a series of meetings at Olivet Hall.
- 11. Marcus C. Hawley's residence, on Main St., injured by fire.



- 12. Mrs. Thomas Lynch died, aged 48.—Peter McKinnon died, aged 36.
- 13. Capt. Rylands shot Fred. Sailer's dog.
- 15. House of Ill Fame on Lafayette St. cracked by the police.
- 17. Isaac B. Walker died, aged 66.
- 18. Mrs. Sophia Ireland died, aged 98.
- 21. Annual banquet to the Stockholders of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Co.
- 23. Thermometer 4° below zero at sunrise, and at 3 P.M., 4° above.
- First sleighing of the season.—Mrs. Charles B. Foote, formerly of Bridgeport, died in Harlem.
- Thermometer 2° below zero, at sunvise.—Republican State Convention at New Haven.
- 27. First appearance of Mr. and Mrs. Barney Williams, in Bridgeport.—Joseph A. Banks died, aged 47.
- 28. Close of the series of entertainments at the Opera House, running through thirty nights, by Messrs. Dugan and Lucas.
- 30. Mrs. Victory Curtis died, aged 63.—Edgar A. Peck died, aged 42.
- 31. Attempted assassination of Sigmund Simonson.—Dedication of Odd Fellows' Hall, People's Savings Bank Building.

FEBRUARY.

- 1. Ezra L. Todd died, aged 77.
- 3. W. H. Wilson, firm of Beardsley, Wilson & Co., fell from a pile of lumber, and severely injured.
- Coldest day of the season. Thermometer 5° below zero, at sunrise.—Fatal accident to Owen McCarthy, on board steamer "Bridgeport."
- 6. Henry Schneidewind died, aged 19.
- 7. Mrs. Clara Lobdell Barnum died, aged 89.
- 9. Mrs. Martha Haines Butts Bennett, of Bridgeport, died at the Grand Central Hotel, in New York.
- 10. Mrs. Jerome R. Palmer died, aged 20.
- Mrs. Alexander Forbes died, aged 42.—Mrs. John Gillice died, aged 39.
- 13. Mrs. Mary Ferris died, aged 74.

- 14. VALENTINES' DAY.
- 15. Fire on Main St., near Golden Hill St. Alexander Reid's Grocery store, and Thomas Fitzpatricks' liquor shop destroyed.
- Republican Convention, Fourth Congressional District, at Franklin Hall. Hon. George Coffing nominated for Congress.
- 18. Assault on W. H. Danley, by the Iron Moulders of the Howe Sewing Machine Co.
- 19. Edward A. Blank died, aged 37.
- Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Naugatuck Railroad Co.
- Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Housatonic Railroad Co.
- 25. Eli Willett died, aged 69.

MARCH.

- Mrs. Dr. A. A. Wright, formerly of Bridgeport, died in Canaan, aged 65.
- Explosion in the Annealing room of the New Haven Arms
 Co.—Mrs. Elizabeth Penfield died, aged 92.—Mrs. J. W.
 White died, aged 34.
- 5. Rev. N. L. Briggs commenced his labors as Rector of Christ Church.
- 6. David M. Blackman attempted suicide at the jail.—Mrs.

 Amanda Vredenburg, of this city, died in Orange, N. J.,

 aged 38.
- 7. First appearance of Laura Keene, at the Opera House.
- 8. Main shaft broke at Howe's Factory.
- 9. Mrs. Catherine Crandall, of this city, died in Trumbull, aged 46.
- 11. Mrs. Aurilla Walker died, aged 86.
- 14. State Sunday School Convention commences its Annual Session in Bridgeport.
- 15. Daniel Vredenburg dropped dead at his house in Church St., E. D.
- 16. Max Strakosch Concert at the Opera House.
- 17. C. M. Schields Hair Dressing Saloon burned.
- 23. Mrs. Ann Curtis died, aged 70.



- 24. Charles G. Briscoe died, aged 69.—Mrs. James Odell died, aged 74.
- 26. Unsuccessful attempt to burglarize the residence of John W. Oviatt, Golden Hill.
- 27. Mrs. Charles B. Mills died.
- 28. Mrs. Henry W. Stillman died, aged 63.
- 30. Madame Marie Seebach as "Marguerite," at the Opera House.—Mrs. T. Edwin Burr died, aged 26.

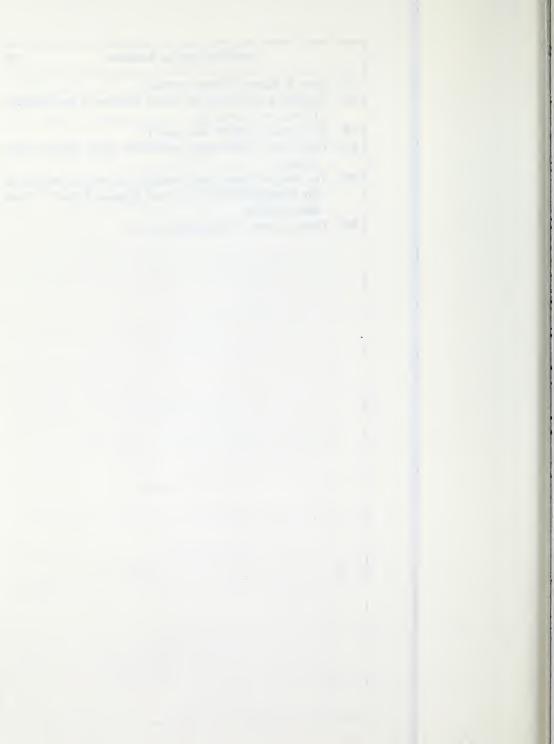
APRIL.

- 3. Annual Election for State, Town and City Officers. E. B. Goodsell elected Mayor.
- 4. Rev. F. W. Smith died in Easton, aged 73—Jeremiah Allen died, aged 52.
- 6. Elizabeth Hendricks died, aged 72.
- State Fast Day. Funeral of Rev. F. W: Smith, from the M. E. Church, Beaver St.
- Easter Sunday School Festivals at the several Episcopal Churches.
- 10. Peace Jubilee and grand parade by the German societies.
- 11. J. B. Brewer, editor of the *Stamford Democrat*, severely injured while attempting to jump on the cars in East Bridgeport.—First thunder storm of the season.
- John H. Russell died, aged 48.—Mrs. Hattie F. Hayes died, aged 23.
- Spire of the new East Bridgeport Congregational Church raised.
- 14. Michael O'Neil dropped dead in the streets in East Bridgeport.
- 17. Lent's New York Circus arrived.
- 18. Grand Concert by Miss Vienna Demorest.
- 19. Bailey's Menagerie and Circus arrived.—Robert Westcott, first mate of the "Schuyler," died.—Mary C. McCutchen, died, aged 21.
- 20. William H. Haley died, aged 20.
- 21. First appearance of Maggie Mitchell in Bridgeport.—Capt.

 Anson Ryan died, aged 69.—Forrester Nichols died, aged 19.
- 22. Sylvester Sivers died, aged 55.



- 23. Stone & Murray's Circus arrived.
- 24. Dr. John Lord lectured on Daniel Webster, at the Methodist Church on Beaver St.
- 26. Mrs. Almira Hubbell died, aged 74.
- 27. Fifty-Second Anniversary celebration of the Order of Odd Fellows.
- 28. The body of John Leavy found in the water in the rear of the Standard Office, by the mud digger.—Edgar F. Yorke died, aged 28.
- 29. House in rear of 85 State St. burned.



UNITED STATES STAMP DUTIES, AMENDED OCTOBER, 1870.

	Duty.
Agreement or contract not otherwise specified: For every sheet or piece of paper upon which either of the same shall	
	\$0 05
Agreement, renewal of, same stamp as original instrument. Appraisement of value or damage, or for any other purpose: For each sheet of paper on which it is written,	5
Assignment of a lease, same stamp as original, and additional stamp upon the value or consideration of transfer, according to the rates of stamps on deed. (See Conveyance.)	3
Assignment of policy of insurance, same stamp as original instrument. (See Insurance.)	
Bank check, draft, or order for any sum of money drawn upon any bank, banker, or trust company at sight or on demand,	2
When drawn upon an other person or persons, companies or corpora-	Δ
tions, for any sum exceeding \$10, at sight or on demand,	2
Bill of exchange, (inland,) draft or order for the payment of any sum of money not exceeding \$100, otherwise than at sight or on de-	
demand, or any promissory note, or any memorandum, check, receipt, or other written or printed evidence of an amount of money to be paid	
on demand or at a time designated: For a sum of \$100,	5
And for every additional \$100 or fractional part thereof in excess of	
\$100,	5
Bill of exchange, (foreign,) or letter of credit drawn in, but payable out of, the United States: If drawn singly, same rates of duty as inland bills	•
of exchange or promissory notes. If drawn in sets of three or more, for every bill of each set, where the	
sum made payable shall not exceed \$100 or the equivalent thereof in	1
any foreign currency,	2
And for every additional \$100, or fractional part thereof in excess of	
\$100,	2
Bill of lading or receipt (other than charter party) for any goods, mer- chandize, or effects to be exported from a port or place in the United	
States to any foreign port or place,	10
Bill of sale by which any ship or vessel, or any part thereof, shall be con-	1
veyed to or vested in any other person or persons: When the consideration shall not exceed \$500,	50
Exceeding \$500, and not exceeding \$1,000, - Exceeding \$1,000, for every additional amount of \$5,000 or fractional	1 00
part thereof,	50
Bond for indemnifying any person for the payment of any sum of money:	
When the money ultimately recoverable thereupon is \$1,000 or less, When in excess of \$1,000, for each \$1,000 or fraction,	50 50
	empt.
Exceeding \$1,000,	1 00
Bond for due execution or performance of duties of office, - Bond, personal, for security for the payment of money. (See Mortgage.) Bond of any description, other than such as may be required in legal pro-	1 00
ceedings, or used in Connection with mortgage deeds, and not other-	
wise charged in this schoule,	25
Broker's notes. (See Contract.)	
7	



HISTORICAL SKETCHES.

The little settlement at Pequonnock or Stratfield, which was the germ of the present city of Bridgeport, was on the border between the towns of Fairfield and Stratford, belonging partly to each, and intimately connected with them in every way; so much so as to make it difficult to give its history, without bringing in matters which might seem more properly to belong elsewhere. In the present instance this has not even been attempted. The writer has simply tried to group some of the most interesting incidents which occurred hereabouts in time past, without in the least concerning himself, whether they happened a few miles to one side or the other of the boundary line.

Among the earliest and most remarkable of these events are several cases of witchcraft. It will doubtless be a matter of surprise to many to learn that any trials and executions for this imaginary crime ever took place outside of the State of Massachusetts, and particularly in this vicinity, historians generally being silent upon the subject. Dr. Trumbull indeed, in the preface to his history of Connecticut, says that one or two executions at Stratford were reported by an "obscure tradition," and that this tradition together with a minute in Goff's Journal by Governor Hutchinson, respecting the execution of Ann Coles, "is all the information to be found" on this subject.*

He also adds that "after the most careful research, no indictment of any person for that crime nor any process" relative thereto, can be found.

Omitting at this time all mention of cases in other parts of the State, let us inquire respecting the executions stated by Dr. Trumbull, to have taken place in Stratford. We have here something more trustworthy than obscure tradition to guide us, for in the

^{*} The case of Ann Coles does not come within the province of the present narrative. I presume it is the same referred to in Mather's Magnalia, book vi, chapter vii.



month of May 1651, the following order was passed by the General Court, in session at Hartford:

"The Governo', Mr. Cullick and Mr. Clarke, are desired to goe down to Stratford to keep Courte upon the tryal of Goody Bassett for her life, and if the Governo' cannott goe, then Mr. Wells is to goe in his roome."*

That the Goody Bassett mentioned in this entry was put to death as a witch, cannot perhaps be positively demonstrated; but there is strong indirect evidence to show that such was the case, contained in the minutes of a trial preserved in the New Haven records. In this trial, which took place in 1654, one of the witnesses in course of her testimony referred to a goodwife Bassett who had been condemned for witcheraft at Stratford, and another alluded to the confession of the witch at that place.†

The place of her execution would seem to be determined by the names "Gallows Brook" and "Gallows Swamp," in the first volume of Stratford town records. The former was a small stream, long since dried up or diverted into another channel, emptying into the swamp, a portion of which yet remains, a little south of the present railroad depot. A rude bridge, stoned up at the sides, crossed this brook, just where the Old Mill road and the railway intersect.

The remains of the bridge were exhumed by the workmen about thirty years since, when the railroad was graded at that point. At that bridge, uniform tradition states the execution of the witch by hanging to have taken place.

Near by, where the street from the village turns off toward the depot, was, until quite recently, a small quartz boulder, with horn-blende streaks like finger marks upon it, which was connected with the fate of Goody Bassett, by an ancient and superstitious tradition.

The story was, that on her way to the place of execution, while struggling against the officers of the law, the witch grasped this store and left these finger marks upon it. The stone, with its legend came down to our day, but a few years since an unromantic individual used it in building a cellar wall, not far from the place where it had been lying.

There is no evidence to show whose wife Mrs. Basset was, or to throw any light upon her previous history.

In October 1653, about two and a half years after the event just

^{*} Conn. Rec., 1, 229.



narrated, the General Court passed another resolution in the following words:

"Mr. Ludlow, Mr. Wells, Mr. Westwood and Mr. Hull, are desiered to keepe a perticulier Courte at Fairfield, before winter, to execute justice there, as cause shall require."*

The unfortunate person on whose account justice was to be "executed," was, as before, a woman, charged with witchcraft. She is designated simply as "Knapp's wife," or "goodwife Knapp," in the only account we have of the proceedings; viz., a number of depositions in the case of Thomas Staples of Fairfield, who, in the spring of 1654, sued Roger Ludlow of that place, for calling his wife a witch. It is not impossible that goody Knapp may have been the wife of Roger Knapp of New Haven, who removed to Fairfield, though his name is not mentioned among the residents there until 1656.† His son Nathaniel, lived in Pequonnock in 1690, and joined the church afterwards organized there, his name occuring frequently upon the early records of the North Church in this city.

The trial took place in the autumn of 1653, before a jury and several "godly magistrates," (the same probably that are named in the order of the General Court), and doubtless lasted several days. There were many witnesses, but the indictment and the substance of the greater part of their testimony is wanting. We learn, however, that a strong and perhaps decisive point against the accused, was the evidence of Mrs. Lucy Pell, and Goody Odell the midwife, who by direction of the Court had examined the person of the prisoner, and testified to finding upon it certain witchmarks, which were regarded as proof positive of diabolical dealings. Mrs. Jones, wife of the Fairfield minister, was also present at this examination, but whether as a spectator or as one of the examiners, is not clearly stated.

The jury brought in a verdict of guilty, and goodwife Knapp was sentenced to death. After her condemnation she was visited by numbers of the townspeople, who constantly urged her to confess

^{*}Coun. Rec., I, 249.

[†]Another theory is that we are to look for goodwife Knapp in the household of Nicholas Knapp, who settled in Stamford about 1649, and died in 1670. It is certainly a curious coincidence that his daughter Sarah married Peter Disbrow (or Desborough), and Disbrow's son Thomas, married Mercy——, who was condemned as a witch in 1692. Yet, unless the account in Savage III, 34, is erroncous, Elinor, the wife of Nicholas Knapp, did not die until 1658, nor could either of his sons' wives be the person meant.



herself a witch, and betray her accomplices, on the ground that it would be for the benefit of her soul; and that while there might have been some reason for her silence before the trial, since a confession then would have prejudiced her case, there could now be none, since she was sure to die in any event. The pains of perdition were held up to her as sure to be her portion, in case of a refusal.

Upon one of these occasions, the minister and a number of the townspeople being present, the poor woman replied to her well-meaning tormentors, that she "must not say anything that was not true," she "must not wrong anybody," but that if she had anything to say before she went out of the world she would reveal it to Mr. Ludlow, at the gallows. Elizabeth Brewster, a bystander, answered coarsely, "if you keep it a little longer till you come to the ladder, the devil will have you quick, if you reveal it not till then." "Take care," replied the prisoner indignantly, "that the devil have not you; for you cannot tell how soon you may be my companion." "The truth is, she added, you would have me say that goodwife Staples is a witch, but I have sins enough to answer for already, and I hope that I shall not add to my condemnation; I know nothing against goodwife Staples, and I hope she is an honest woman."

She was sharply rebuked by Richard Lyon, one of her keepers, for this language, as tending to create discord between neighbors after she was dead, but answered, "goodman Lyon, hold your tongue; you know not what I know; I have been fished withall in private, more than you are aware of. I apprehend that goodwife Staples hath done me wrong in her testimony, but I must not return evil for evil." When further urged, and reminded that "she was now to die, and therefore should deal truly, this convicted witch burst into tears, and desired her pers-cutors to cease, saying, in words that must have lingered long in the memory of those who heard, and which it is impossible even now to read without emotion,—" never, never, poor creature was tempted as I am tempted; pray, pray for me!"

Yet it would appear that her fortitude sometimes gave way, and that she was induced to make a frivolous confession to the effect that Mrs. Staples once told her that an Indian had brought to her several little objects brighter than the light of day, telling her that they



were Indian gods, and would certainly render their possessor rich and powerful; but that Mrs. Staples had refused to receive them. This story she subsequently recanted.

The procession to the place of execution, which is stated by an eye-witness to have been "between the house of Michael Try and the mill," or a little west of the Stratfield boundary, included magistrates and ministers, young persons and those of maturer years, doubtless almost the entire population of Fairfield. On the way to the fatal spot the clergyman* again exhorted the poor woman to confess, but was rebuked by her companion Mrs. Staples, who cried, "why bid her confess what she is not? I make no doubt, but that if she were a witch she would confess!"

Under the shadow of the gallows the heart of Goody Knapp must again have failed her, for being allowed a moment's grace after she had mounted the ladder, she descended and repeated her former trifling story respecting Mrs. Staples, in the ear of Mr. Ludlow, the magistrate.

If this was done in the hope of obtaining a reprieve, as seems likely, the poor creature was disappointed, for she was speedily turned off by the executioner, and hung suspended until life was extinct.

When the body had been cut down and laid upon the green turf beside the grave, a number of women crowded about it eager to examine the witchmarks. In the foreground we see Mrs. Staples kneeling beside the corpse, and in the language of one of the witnesses, "wringing her hands and taking ye Lords name in her mouth" as she asseverates the innocence of the murdered woman. Calling upon her companions to look at the supposed witchmarks, she declares that they were naught but such as she herself or any woman might have. "Aye, and be hanged for them, and deserve it too," was the reply of one of the older women present. Whereupon a general clamor ensued, and seeing that there was now nothing to be gained, and much to be apprehended if she persisted, Mrs. Staples yielded the point, and returned to the village.

Among the names occurring in that narrative are some like Gould, Buckley and Lyon, that are common in Fairfield to this day. The

Rev. John Jones, who came from England 1635. He was ordained over the church in Concord, Mass., in April, 1639, and in September, 1644, removed with many of his parish to Fairfield, where he died in 1665. Sprague's Annals Am. Pulpit, L, 51. Savage, Gen. Dict., H., 562.



Odells and Sherwoods may have been residents of Pequonnock. Mr. Ludlow saw fit to repeat the story told him by the dying woman, and to further assert that Mrs. Staples has not only laid herself under suspicion of being a witch, but "made a trade of lying." Hence the suit which has already been mentioned, in which the New Haven Court had the good sense to give a decision in favor of the plaintiff, and allow him fifteen pounds damages.

The last trial in the State of Connecticut for the crime of witch-craft took place in Fairfield in 1692, the same year in which the delusion rose to such a fearful height in Salem, Massachusetts.* Capt. John Burr, one of the magistrates in this trial, was the father of the principal founder of St. John's Church, and the name of Isaac Wheeler, a juryman, may be seen upon the records of the North Congregational Church in this city.

Mercy Disborough, one of the accused persons was from Compo or Westport. Three others, Elizabeth Clawson, goody Miller, and the widow Staples, were indicted at the same time. The last named may have been the same person who, as we have seen, was suspected of being a witch nearly forty years before. The following extracts show the composition of the Court, and manner of conducting the trial:

THE COURT.

"At a special court of Oyer and Terminer, held at Fayrefield, September 19th, 1692.—Present—Robert Treat, Esq., Governour, William Jones, Esq., Deputy Governour, John Allyn, Secretary, Mr. Andrew Leete, Capt. John Buar, Mr. William Pirkin, Capt. Moses Mansfield, (composing the Court.)

GRAND JURY.

"The Grand Jurors impaneled were Mr. Joseph Bayard, Sam'l Ward, Edward Hayward, Peter Ferris, Jonas Waterbury, John Bowers, Samuel Sherman, Samuel Galpin, Ebenezer Booth, John Platt, Christopher Comstock, Wm. Reed; who presented a bill of indictment against Mercy Disborough, in the words following, to wit:

^{*}It is doubtful whether the original documents in this case are now in existence, but extracts from them were published in the New York Commercial Advertiser of July 14th and 15th, 1829, and reprinted in some of the papers of this State. An interesting note relating to the subject may also be found on page 76, of the fourth volume of Colonial Records of Connecticut, from the pen of the editor, Mr. C. J. Hoadly.



INDICTMENT.

"A bill exhibited against Mercy Disborough, wife of Thomas Disborough, of Compo, in county of Fayrefield, in the colony of Connecticut.

Mercy Disborough, wife of Thomas Disborough, of Compo in Fayrefield, thou art here indicted by the name of Mercy Disborough, that not having the fear of God before thine eyes, thou hast had familiarity with Satan, the grand enemie of God and man, and that by his instigation and help, thou hast in a preturnatural way afflicted and done harm to the bodyes and estates of sundry of their Majesties subjects, or to some of them, contrary to the peace of our sovereign Lord and Ladie, the King and Queen, their crown and dignitie; and on the 25th of April of their majesties reigns, and at sundry other times, for which by the laws of God and this colony, thou deservest to dye.

JOHN ALLYN, Secretary."

Fayrefield, 15th September, 1692.

"The indictment having been read, the prisoner pleaded not guilty; and referred herself to tryal by God and her countrie, which countrie was the jury after written."

Names of the petit jury.—James Beers, Isaac Wheeler, John Osborn, John Miles, Ambrose Thompson, John Hubby, John Bowton, Samuel Hayes, Eleazer Slawson, John Belden, John Wakeman, Joseph Rowland."

The depositions of nearly two hundred witnesses were taken in this case. That their evidence was of a trifling character, will be inferred from the annexed specimens, and it clearly shows the excited state of public feeling at the time, that such accusations were the means of putting in jeopardy the lives of several innocent persons, and of causing the sentence of death to be passed upon one. Two of the depositions copied here relate to the water ordeal, and there is also evidence to show that the persons of the accused were examined for proofs of guilt.*

DEPOSITIONS.

"At a Court held at Fayrefield y' 15th day of September, 1692. The testimony of Hester Groment, aged thirty-fore yers or ther abouts, testifieth; that when she lay sick some time in May last she saw, about midnight or past, the widow Staples, that is the

[.] Conn. Rec., IV, 76, note.



shape of her person, and the shape of Mercy Disborough, sitting upon the floor by the two chests that stand by the side of the hous in the iner rume, and Mrs. Staples shape dancing upon the bed's feet with a white cup in her hand, and performed some three times. Sworn in Court, September 15th, 1692.

Attest: John Allyn, Secretary.

Edward Jesop, aged about twenty-nine years, testifieth; that being at Thomas Disburow's house at Compoh, sometime in ye beginning of last winter in the evening, he asked me to tarry and sup with him; and there I saw a pigg roasting that looked very well, but when it came to y' table (where we had a very good lite) it seemed to me to have no skin upon it, and looked very strangely; but when y'sd. Disburrow began to eat it, y'skin (to my apprehension) came upon it, and it seemed to be as it was when it was upon the spit, at which strange alteration of ye pigg I was much concerned. However, fearing to displease his wife by refusing to eat, I did eat some of y' pig; and the same time Isaac Sherwood being there, and Disburrow's wife and he discoursing concerning a certain place of Scripture, and I being of yo same mind that Sherwood was concerning yo place of Scripture, and Sherwood telling her where y' place of Scripture was, she brought a bible (that was of very large print,) but though I had a good light and looked directly upon the book I could not see one letter; but looking upon it while in her hands, after she had turned over a few leaves, I could see to read it above a yard off.

Y's same night going home, and coming to Compoh creek, it seemed to be high water, wherenpon I went to a cannooc that was about ten rods off, (which lay upon such a bank as ordinarily I could have shoved it into y's creek with ease,) though I lifted with all my might and lifted one end from y's ground, I could by no means push it into y's creek; and then the water seemed so loe yt I might ride over, whereupon I went again to the water side, but then it appeared as at first, very high; and then going to y's cannooc again, and finding that I could not get it into y's creek I thought to ride round to where I had often been, and knew y's way as well as before my own dore, and had my old cart horse; yet I could not keep him in y's road, do what I could, but he often turned aside into y's bushes, and then went backwards, so that though I kept upon my horse and did my best endeavour to get home, I was y's



greater part of ye night wandering before I got home, altho'it was not much more than two miles.**

Fayrefield, September 15th, 1692.

Sworn in Court September 15th, 1692.

Attest: John Allyn, Secretary.

Mr. John Wakeman aged thirty two years, and Samuel Squire, made oath that they saw Mercy Disburrow put into the water, and that she swam upon the water. This done in Court, September 15th, 1692.

Test: John Allyn, Secretary.

The testimony of Abram Adams and Jonathan Squire also is, that when Mercy Disburrow and Elizabeth Clawson were bound hand and foot and put into the water, they swam like a corck; and one labored to press them into the water, and they buoyed up like corck.

Sworn in Court September 15th, 1692.

Attest: JOHN ALLYN, Secretary.

Catherine Branch, aged seventeen years or thereabouts, testifieth and saith, that sometime this last somer she saw and felt goodwife Clawson and Marcy Disborough afflict her, not together, but apart, by scratching and pinching and wringing her body; and farther, saith that goodwife Clawson was the first that did afflict her, and afterward Marcy Disborough; and after that sometimes one of them, and sometimes the other of them; and in her afflictions though it was night, yet it appeared as light as noone day. Sworn in Court September 19th, 1692.

Attest: John Allyn, Secretary."

Having taken this testimony and much more of a similar character, the court adjourned for several weeks. On the 28th of October 1692, it assembled again at the same place, and after taking further evidence, the case was submitted to the jury. Elizabeth Clawson, goody Miller, and the widow Staples were acquitted, but a verdict was returned against Mercy Disborough of "guilty, according to the indictment, of familiarity with Satan." Being sent forth to reconsider their verdict, the jury returned saying that they saw no cause to alter it, but found her guilty as before. Their

^{*}Experiences similar to those related by this witness are not quite unknown at the present day, but they are seldom attributed to witchcraft.



verdict was approved by the court, and sentence of death passed upon the prisoner by the Governor. It seems probable however, that she escaped this fate, and was pardoned, with the return to reason that followed the collapse of the Salem delusion, for a woman named Mercy Disborough was living in Fairfield in 1707, and is named as one of the executors upon the estate of her husband Thomas.

A more cheerful topic than that upon which we have dwelt at so much length, is the story of the courtship of John Thompson, one of the first settlers of Stratford, and the ancestor of nearly all of that name in the place, as well as of several of the most respected residents of Bridgeport. It is given here substantially, as it was related by the Rev. Nathan Birdsey, who died in the year 1818, at the age of one hundred and three years. It seems that Mr. Thompson, when a young man, came over to New England to view the country, not with the design of settling down immediately, but being well pleased with the appearance of things, decided to make his residence here, and returned to England to dispose of his effects and make some other necessary preparations before embarking finally for the new world. This was about the year 1635.

While on his way from the ship to his former home in England, about thirty miles back in the country, he met a respectable-looking farmer with his three daughters coming back from the field, whither they had been to milk the cows. Learning that the stranger was from New England, the farmer insisted upon his tarrying awhile, to give them some account of the new country, in which such a general interest was felt. He did so; and in reply to their questions, told them that it was full of savage beasts and savage men, but that it was a land of great promise, and one where men could at least worship God according to the dictates of their consciences, without molestation from any person.

"Sayest thou so," said one of the daughters, who until then had been a silent listener to the conversation, "then would to God I were there!" This young woman had herself been a sufferer for conscience's sake, having been one of a company apprehended some time previous for listening to the preaching of a Puritan minister, and for that offense been made to sit in the stocks. "Could you endure it," asked Thompson, "to leave this comfortable home, and go to a new country, for the sake of freedom to worship God?" "Aye, gladly," she replied.



The brief halt of the young man was protracted to a three days visit, at the end of which time they became betrothed. He went home and made ready for departure; they were married and came to America, settling for awhile in Roxbury, Massachusetts.

About the year 1640, they removed to Stratford. He brought with him a bushel of seed wheat, half of which was sowed on land near "Fresh Pond," and is said to have yielded forty bushels. This, it is believed, was the first wheat harvested in Stratford. Mrs. Thompson's baptismal name was *Mirable*, as shown by the will of her husband which may be seen in the first volume of Stratford town records, page 198. As the will was offered for probate in January 1679, he must have died in the autumn of the previous year. Mr. Thompson's house stood on the site of the one recently occupied by Mr. Richard Gorham.

There is an interesting fact worthy of mention in this connection, as throwing light upon the probable origin of the name of the town of Stratford. President Savage speaks of the discovery in England of a tax bill dated October 1st, 1598, in which the name of John Alsop occurs, along with that of William Shakespear, the great poet of humanity; and remarks that it would not be very extravagant to presume that they were natives of the same place—Stratford on Avon. Thomas Alsop, supposed to be the son of the preceding, was one of the first settlers in Stratford, Connecticut, where he died some time before the year 1651, and perhaps the name of the village may be referred to him.*

A single vote is extant upon the records of the town relating to the protracted struggle between the whites and Indians generally called Philip's war, which shows that some anxiety was felt lest the Indians in this vicinity also should take up arms. It was passed August 8th, 1675, and reads as follows: "Voted: that there shall be no gun shot off in the town-plot, or within the field, and upon the common road to Fairfield, upon any occasion whatsoever, except upon defence or occasion against the enemy, under penalty of five shillings for every gun. This order to stand during the present trouble with the Indians."

Fairfield and Stratford, though remote from the actual scene of

^{*}Another theory derives it from Stratford in Essex County, England, which lies contiguous to Dedham, from which place Edunual Sherman with his sons Edunual, John and Samuel, came to this country. The latter settled in Stratford, Connecticut.



conflict, both furnished volunteers for this war, and a company of seventy-two men raised in this county took part with credit in the famous Rhode Island swamp fight in the winter of 1675, the sharpest conflict in which the early colonists were ever engaged. In this battle, one thousand men from the colonies of Massachusetts, Plymouth, and Connecticut, under command of Governor Winslow and Major Robert Treat, attacked the stronghold of the powerful Narraganset tribe, defended by more than three thousand warriors. The fortress of the Narragansets, which was encircled by high palisades and an abattis a rod in thickness, was upon an island five or six acres in extent, surrounded by a "hideous swamp," the only bridge across it being the trunk of a fallen tree, elevated four or five feet above the water, and defended at its farther extremity by a block house, garrisoned by Indians.

The assault took place on the afternoon of the 19th of December, the bitter inclemency of the weather and the scarcity of provisions forbidding any delay, although it was the Sabbath day, and the troops arrived on the field fatigued by a march of eighteen miles through the deep snow. Massachusetts, being in the van, commenced the attack, but the fort was not stormed until Connecticut had come up. While the main body were engaged in front, a little handful of brave men struggled through the swamp, and finding an unguarded point in the rear of the fort effected an entrance unobserved, and with their long muskets loaded with small shot speedily caused fearful slaughter among the savages who swarmed about the gate. Seeing the Indians waver the colonists raised the cry, "they run; they run!" and pressed forward so fast that the retreat was turned to an atter rout. Three hundred warriors were slain before they could escape to the mainland, besides a great number wounded, many of whom afterwards died of their injuries or from cold and exposure, and six hundred wigwams with their contents were consumed. At nightfall the English set out on their homeward march, carrying with them their dead and wounded. The snow was falling fast, and it was past midnight when they reached the camp they had left in the morning.

Connecticut suffered more severely than the other colonies in this engagement, losing out of three hundred men about eighty, of whom twenty were from Fairfield county.*

^{*}Hubbard, Indian Wars, 135.



Among these were Capt. Seeley of Fairfield, killed; and John Beers of Stratford, and John Hubbell and Samuel Hall, of Pequonnock, wounded.

Capt. Nathaniel Seeley was the son of Robert Seeley, one of the original settlers of New Haven, and a man of consequence in that place. In 1649 or a little earlier the young man married Mary, daughter of Benjamin Turney of Fairfield, and soon afterward removed there. His second wife, Elizabeth Gilbert, he married in 1694.

In the following year he served as Lieutenant in the force commanded by Major Robert Treat in the defence of the towns upon the Connecticut river, and on his return was promoted to be captain and appointed commander of a company in the Narraganset expedition. He left nine children, of whom at least three, Nathaniel, Joseph, and John, resided in Pequonnock, as their names appear on the early records of the North Church.

John Hubbell and Samuel Hall, were also from Pequonnock. The former, who was a son of Richard Hubbell, Sr., the ancestor of nearly all of that name in this vicinity, lost one of his fingers in this fight, probably from a wound, though it may have been only frostbitten. He was granted a hundred acres of land by the General Court, for his services.*

Samuel Hall was a son of Francis Hall, of New Haven, who afterward removed to Stratford. Samuel and his brother Isaac, were among the signers of the petition of the residents of Pequon-nock for church privileges, referred to further on, and another petition is still preserved signed by Samuel alone, asking for compensation for his sufferings in this campaign, which brings the scene very vividly before the mind of the reader.

"I was not," he says, "in the rear, but when Capt. Mason was shot, I was just before him when he fell down, and shook him by the hand, I being shot down before in that very place, so that he fell very near me. But Capt. Mason got up again and went forth, and I lay bleeding there in the snow, and hearing the word commanded to set fire to the wigwams, I considered I should be burned if I did not crawl away. It pleased God to give me strength to get up and get out with my cutlass in my hand, notwithstanding I had received at that four bullets, two in each thigh, as was manifest

^{*}Conn. Rec., III, 6.



afterwards." We learn also from this document, that "his great coat and knapsack and all his clothing were lost, and he was compelled to lie in his blood on the straw, 'having not else to drink but water and ice with it,' for several days after the fight. He was then carted to the water side and carried on board a vessel, to be conveyed to Rhode Island, where he remained until able to go on crutches, suffering greatly in the extreme cold for want of suitable clothing."*

In answer to his petition Hall was granted the sum of fifty shillings, by the General Court.

The Indians inhabiting this vicinity, though numerous, do not appear to have taken part in this conflict, nor at any time to have caused the settlers serious trouble, perhaps because they remembered keenly the terrible fate of the Pequots, or it may be that their spirits had been crushed before the appearance of the whites, by the repeated incursions of their fierce enemies, the Mohawks.

Yet there were some signs that the ferocity of their disposition was only slumbering, not extinct, such as the murder of a runaway servant between Fairfield and Stamford in 1644, and another incident which occurred in Stratford a little later, and is traditional in the Thompson and Birdsey families. John Thompson the emigrant, the story of whose courtship has been already related, had gone to work one day with the other men of the village in the town field by the pond, below the end of Main street. His wife who was washing, stood over her tub with her back toward the open door of the house, her infant lying in the cralle near the door, when suddenly two Indians rushed into the house, and before she could raise any alarm one split the other's skull with his tomahawk, the victim falling headlong across the cradle. The poor savage, finding himself in deadly peril had entered the dwelling for protection, thinking that his foe would not dare strike him down in an Englishman's house. The date of the incident is lost, but as Mr. Thompson's six children were born between September 1641 and July 1655, it must have been somewhere between these limits, perhaps about 1650.

The tract of land known as the "Lordship farm" was a favorite spot with the Indians for their *powwows*, or religious dances, performed to appearse the anger of the divinities, or in token of grati-

^{*}Conn. Rec., III., 5, note.



tinde for any unusual good fortune. In these hideous rites, led by the powwows or priests in monstrous disguises, they leaped about blazing fires into which it is said they sometimes cast their furs and wampum, and even little children as a sacrifice to Hobbamocko the author of evil, accompanying their movements with such unearthly yells and howls as to make our fathers fancy that devils at such times thronged the air, and participated with the savages in their unholy performances.*

Yet, though the settlers might at times entertain the fancy that their wild neighbors had dealings with the powers of darkness, they used them well in the main, always purchasing their land of them instead of taking it by force, and in some instances, buying it twice or thrice over. The Stratford records give the particulars of many such transactions. In one entry however, there is a want of precision about the boundaries, that suggests the suspicion of an intent to overreach upon the part of the purchaser. In this case Maquash and Quionip, Indian Sachems, with much legal verbiage eminently intelligible to them, make over, give, grant, alienate, &c., to one of the settlers, a certain piece of land bounded north by a stream running into the Potatuck river, which is guessed to be about one mile square, but "the particular bounds hereof is not so fully known at present."

Thus far little has been said relating directly to the settlement at Pequennock. Trumbull, in his History of Connecticut, says that it was commenced at the same time as Stratford, and expressly states that this name was given to that part of Stratford adjacent to the Fairfield line, in distinction from Cupheag, which was situated at the mouth of the Housatonic river.†

^{*}Several interesting relics of the Paugusset Indians were discovered in Stratford a few years since by Rev. Benjamin L. Swan. They consisted of a fireplace and mortar for grinding corn, excavated in a ledge of rock near the house recently occupied by Mr. William Strong, which, by the way, was built on the site of an ancient inn, kept during and before the Revolutionary War, by Mr. George Benjamin. The fireplace was a semi-cylindrical upright hollow in the rock, several feet in height, from the top of which a pot could be suspended by a cross-bar. Below it was the mortar with a rounded stone pestle, as large as a man's head, still lying in it. Unfortunately, these relies were destroyed before measures could be taken for their pre-ervation.

Arrowheads in considerable numbers have also been found at the foot of another ledge a little west of the town on the lower road to Bridgeport, and it is believed that this was the place of their manufacture.

^{*} Trumbull, Hist. Conn., I, 109.



The word Pequounock is of Indian origin, signifying "place of slaughter" or "place of destruction," and still survives in the appellation of the river upon which Bridgeport is built.* The oldest document signed by the inhabitants of the plantation as such, that I have been able to find any account of is a petition to the General Court dated May 1678, subscribed by Isaac Wheeler, John Odell, Sr., and Matthew Sherwood, in behalf of the people of the place. The distance of nearly four miles that separates them from Fairfield Center is too great, they say, to be easily traversed by the children, especially the younger ones, and therefore they had set up a school of their own, and employed an experienced teacher. Forty-seven children were already in attendance. The expense of the school they propose to bear themselves, but ask to be freed from taxation for the benefit of the one in Fairfield. Rev. Samuel Wakeman, minister at Fairfield, adds a favorable endorsement to the petition, though most of his parishioners were opposed to granting it. The General Court referred the matter to the Fairfield county Court, with power to act, and recommended that body to make an allowance to the petitioners, equal to or greater than their annual school-tax.†

Another petition of theirs drawn up twelve years later I venture to give in full, partly because its contents throw some light upon the character of the inhabitants, and partly from the fact that the signatures furnish a list nearly complete of the householders in the settlement in the year 1690.‡

PETITION FOR CHURCH PRIVILEGES.

"To the Gen" Court of Connecticut (whom we honour), in their next session at Hartford.

Wee, the inhabitants & persons of Poquannock, do in all humility address & apply ourselves unto you in mann' method and form following:

Manifesting unto this hon'd respected representative body that this vicinity of Poquannock afores appertaineth part to the town of Fairfield, and part to the town of Stratford, unto which two

^{*}Conn. Historical Society's Transactions, II, 40.

[†]Conn. Rec., III, 8.

[†]State papers, Ecclesiastical, I, 105. Copy furnished the writer by courtesy of Charles J. Hoadly, Esq., State Librarian. See Conn. Rec., IV, 29.



townshipps it hath been fully responsible according to obligations, for meeting-house, and school dues, rates and assessments; we, the dwellers there, have to the towns we have been engag'd to ever punctually paid our acknowledgments, taxes and charges, as we have from time to time been laid under such bonds and indisputable engagemts. But now since we are by the blessing and grace of Almighty God risen and advanced to somewhat more maturity and ripeness, and grown more populous than heretofore, in capacity to stand within ourselves, wthout running for succor six or seven miles on one hand, and at least four on the other; we doe make it our joynt ardent request and passionate peticôn to this honour'd esteem'd Court, that you would in the greatness of your goodness, and out of your sincere zeal to the comfort of this part every way, so order it in your new convention that wee, every one of us, that are setled inhabitants of & steady dwellers in Poquanock, may bee exempted & relaxed from any ministers' rate or rates, & schollmastours salerys, either in Fairfield or Stratford aforesd, purposing (God smiling on & favouring our enterprises,) to suit o'selves in time convenient wth such meet instrumts for ye pulpit & scholl, as may most and best serve the interest of our good God, & do our souls & children most good; such as shall bee most painfull pious & profitable for these ends to web they were ordain'd, and are improv'd.

& your humb, petition's shall ever continue to pray for your long life & prosperity, subsigning this our address, dated 2⁴ May, 1690.

John Bardsle, S^r. Richard Hobbell, Sr. Matthew Sherwood, Sam^{II} Wels. Isaac Wheeler, James Benitt, David Reynolds, Nathⁿ Knap, Will Barsley, Matthew Sharwood, iun, John Wheller, Isack Wheeler, Sr. Thomas Griffin. Roburd Bishop, Samu Morhous, Samu^{II} Jackson, Matthew Sherwood, iur. Jacobe Wakelen, Samuel Bardsle, Moses Jackson, Sener.

Sam^{ll} Hubbell, Sam¹¹ Bardsley, S^r. Samuel Hall, David Sherman, Richard Hubell. Samuell Gregory, Sam^{II} Tredwell, John Odell, Sr. Izhak Hall, Thomas Wheller, Joseph Seely, Moses Jackson, iur.,

Ephraim Wheller, Daniel Bardsle, Samuell French, Sam¹¹ Hubbell, Timothy Wheller, Thomas Benit, Ed. Tredwell, Jacob Joy, John Odell, juner. John Benitt, iure. Thos. Morhous, Jer, John Sharwood, Joseph Joy, Sam¹¹ Sumers,



On account of the opposition of Fairfield, the request of the petitioners was not granted at this time, the Court recommending "the towne and the people of Paquanage to meet and loueingly discourse about the matter, and labor to agree; ... and this Court will be ready to confirm or ratify what shall be mutually agreed upon."* In May, 1694, they renewed their request, and no opposition being offered, liberty was given them to embody in church estate. The acquiescence of the Fairfield and Stratford churches was perhaps due to the influence of Rev. Israel Chauncey, who had interested himself in their behalf.

Extended genealogies would be out of place in a sketch like the present, but as the signers of this paper have descendants living here to-day, brief remarks respecting a few of them may be pardoned.

The Beardsleys, five in number, were the children and grand-children of William Beardsley of Stratford, who came over in the Planter, anno 1635, aged thirty, and with his wife Mary, probably settled at first in Concord, Massachusetts. He removed to Stratford before the year 1644, was representative in 1645 and afterwards, and died in 1661, leaving a good estate. John Beardsly, Sr., born in England in 1633, came over with his father, William. By his will dated 1717, he manumitted a slave.† He died in the following year, aged 85.

James Bennett, Sr., was freeman at Concord 1639, and five years later removed with his father-in-law Isaac Wheeler, to Pequonnock. James, Jr., and Thomas, were his sons; the former, doubtless the person called the shipwright upon the church records, anno 1696, while the Lieutenant James Bennett of Stratfield, admitted to the bar in New Haven, October 5th, 1708, may have been a grand-son.‡

Samuel French was a farmer at Fresh Pond, and is doubtless the same person whose death was many years afterwards recorded in such a quaint manner on the church records. "1732, December 23d, died Sergent Samuel French, of the dry belly ach, aged about years."

[#] Conn. Rec., IV, 30.

[†] Probably the same admitted to church membership at his request, June 2, 1717; eide Stratfield Church Records, 1, 33.

t Conn. Rec., V, 48, note.



Richard Hubbell, Sr., came from England in 1647, and settled in New Haven, but removed to Pequennock about 1664, where he carried on the business of a cooper and farmer near the present western boundary of Bridgeport. He died before the year 1706, as appears by a resolution passed by the General Assembly in October of that year: "This Assembly grants unto Richard Hubbell, oldest son of Lieut. Hubbell, late of Stratfield, deceased, libertie of purchasing an hundred acres of land, not prejudicial to former grants, for the sake of the good services of his father."* His descendants were numerous, the remains of nearly fifty persons by the name of Hubbell reposing in the old Stratfield burying-ground, more than half of whom died before the commencement of the present century.

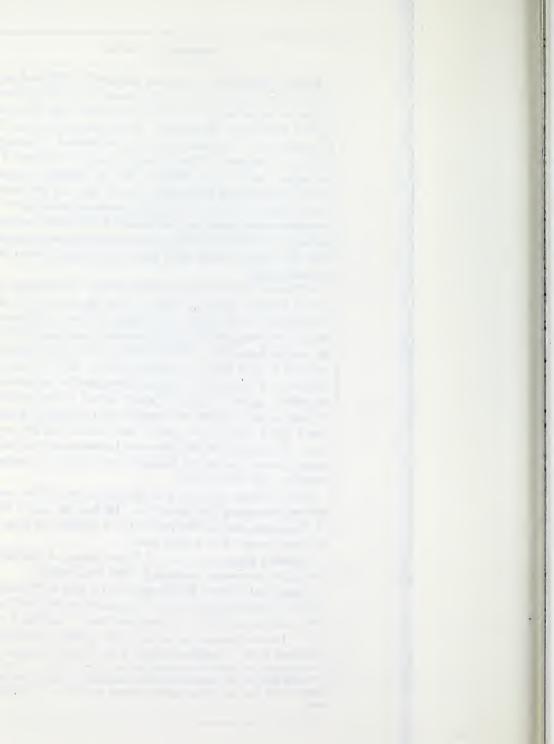
Of Samuel Hall we have already spoken. His brother Isaac, born in England, lived for a time in New Haven, where in 1657, he was placed in the stocks for writing a fictitious publishment or notice of marriage, which another humorous young man posted upon the meeting-house door. Practical jokes of this kind it would seem were not in high favor in that sober town. Mr. Hall afterward removed to Pequonnock, served as "chyrugeon" or surgeon on the expedition against Canada in which he lost his son, and for his services on this occasion was awarded by the General Court the sum of thirty pounds, and granted one hundred and fifty acres of land. His lawsuits with his father and brother were bitter and protracted, so much so that the General Court found it necessary to interfere. He died in 1714.

Moses Jackson, Sr., carried on the business of a miller near the western boundary of the plantation. He was the son of Henry, of Watertown, who in 1669 removed to Fairfield, died some years afterward possessed of a large estate.

Nathaniel Knapp was a son of Roger Knapp, of Fairfield, and possibly of the woman executed in 1654, for a witch.

Samuel and Thomas Morehouse were the sons of Thomas, who settled in Fairfield about 1653. The former was admitted freeman 1664, and died in 1732 "of a malignant fever," the church record says. His son Samuel, Jr., served under Major John Burr as a volunteer in the expedition against Port Royal, in August 1710,

^{*} Conn. Rec., V, 11. In the record book of Stratfield Society is the following entry: "1700, Oct. 23d, Father Hubbell departed this life, in the 72d year of his age.



and afterwards received a pension for the loss of his hand, caused by the premature explosion of a gun.

Capt. David Sherman was son of Samuel, of Stratford, and grandson of that Edmund Sherman, of Dedham, Essex County, England, who early emigrated to Massachusetts, but returned to his former home in 1648, leaving his sons in this country. This Edmund Sherman carried on the business of a clothier, as we would now say of carding cloth, at Dedham, and the same pursuit is followed there by one of that name to this day. He was a man of wealth and position, and a stained glass window in the parish church as well as one of the buttresses of the edifice, still bears his name. He also founded a charity-school, yet in existence. The celebrated Roger Sherman of Connecticut, one of the authors of the Declaration of Independence, was from this stock. Captain David Sherman's house stood upon the top of "Toilsome hill," and was a handsome edifice for its day. He was deacon in the Stratfield Church, and had ten children, nine of whom were daughters.

Nathaniel Seeley was a son of Capt. Seeley, killed in the swamp fight, as already related.

The Wheelers, six in number, were the descendants of Thomas and Ephraim, who came from Concord in September, 1644, with Rev. Mr. Jones and others of that place. John is repeatedly called Dr. John Wheeler in the church records, and served as surgeon on one of the expeditions against Canada. Thomas, Jr., died in 1690, and his estate inventoried £1556, a large sum at that day. Isaac Wheeler died November, 1733, "by the bleeding of a wound in his leg which seemed almost healed," says the church record.

The legal boundaries of this plantation and its successive changes of name deserve a few lines. In the petition of May, 1694, already referred to, the inhabitants asked that the Indian name of Pequonnock might be changed to Fairford, a word whose composition is at a glance apparent. The General Court preferred that it should be called Fairfield Village, and so ordered; but in the following year the people changed this appellation to Stratfield, as shown by the church records, though the change was not legalized until 1701. The following order was passed by the General Court upon that occasion:

"This Assembly, having heard and considered the petition of

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the inhabitants of Fairfield village, presented to them by Lieut James Bennett, desiring that the Court would state and settle for them a line for the west boundarye to their plantation, &c., doe order and enact: That the line to be the west boundarye of the said plantation shall run so as that it may take in and include within their bounds, one Moses Jackson, miller, his housings and lands, and run on the west side of old Jackson's lotts, (vizt,) pasture, building lott, and long lott, upwards or northwards to the upward or northern end of the bounds of the town of Fairfield, and that all such person or persons as have built or that shall build and inhabit on the east side of the abovesaid line, and on the west side of Poquanock River, shall pay to all publick charges that shall arise in the said plantation his rateable part thereof. * * *

* * And further it is enacted by the authoritye aforesaid: That the said plantation (formerly called Poquannock and Fairfield village) shall for the future be called by the name of Stratfield."*

There is no doubt that the principal thoroughfare of the plantation, now called the old stage road or "King's highway," was originally twenty rods in width. In an unbound but valuable collection of records in Stratford, entitled "Town Acts," under date of 1685, appears the following order: "All the uplands and marshes lying southward of the road leading to Fairfield, between the phisicall spring and the uppermost cartway over Island Brook,† shall be left for a perpetual common;‡ and twenty rods in breadth shall be left for a road to Fairfield bounds."

What a magnificent thoroughfare this would now be if it had never been encroached upon, may be readily conceived by imagining Old Mill green extended from Stratford village to Fairfield.

Among the eminent persons who have at one time or another traveled this road is Whitefield, the celebrated divine and orator, who preached in Stratford on the afternoon of Monday, October 27, 1740, and later in the same day at Fairfield. Whitefield certainly had access to the church edifice in the former place, but seems to have preferred his usual custom of speaking in the open air, for which his remarkable voice was well adapted. A proof of

^{*} Conn. Rec., IV, 356. These limits were afterwards enlarged by an act passed by the General Assembly at New Haven, in October, 1752.

[†] The stream that feeds Yellow Mill.

t Old Mill green.



its power was given upon this occasion. A Mrs. Burrit, who lived below Main street, farther down than any house now stands, and nearly a mile from where the preacher stood on the summit of meeting-house hill, was in the yard before her door, and distinctly heard Mr. Whitefield name his text, which was Zechariah ix, 12, "Turn ye to the stronghold ye prisoners of hope," and repeated it to her husband upon his return.*

During the sermon one of his hearers, a young woman, daughter of Mr. Jeremiah Green, who lived on Old Mill road, just beyond the present railroad crossing, overcome by excitement, swooned and fell into a sort of trance or insensible state, which lasted for several days.

Mr. Whitefield, after preaching, was the guest of Rev. Hezekiah Gold, the Congregational minister, who lived on the spot now occupied by the house of the late Capt. Sterling. Rev. Dr. Johnson, the Episcopal elergyman, is said to have called upon him and desired some account of his principles, but Whitefield declined entering into any discussion, saying that he had already announced his principles in his sermons, and soon after took his departure for Fairfield.

Rev. Samuel Johnson, one of the most distinguished men in the colony, and the father of Episcopaey in Connecticut, was at this time rector of Christ Church, Stratford, which was founded in 1723, and was the first Episcopal church in Connecticut. The leading events of his life are too well known to need mention here.

Respecting the persecutions said to have been inflicted upon the early Churchmen by the Congregationalists in this vicinity, it may be proper to say here, that statements of this kind, though not wholly without foundation, are much exaggerated.

By the colonial as well as by the English law every person was required to pay, according to his ability, for the support of public worship, and in default of payment was proceeded against in the same manner as for any other species of debt; but it is a fact that the only entry of an execution against the property of any man

^{*}If this seems incredible, it should be remembered that when Whitefield preached in Stratford it was one of those calm still days preceding a storm when sounds are and ble at a great distance. He says in his journal that the attendance at Fairfield was not large, the air being cold, for snow had fallen.



for non-payment of rates, found on the early records of the town of Stratford is in the case of Nicholas Gray, a Congregationalist.*

A careful examination also of the records of the Congregational society in Stratfield, (now Bridgeport,) shows but a single case occurring here. This took place early in the year 1752. An execution was then issued against the property of a number of shareharen who had refused to pay their proportion of the usual rate or tax, and John Nichols, Joseph Seeley, Richard Hall, and other members of the Church of England, addressed a memorial to the General Assembly for relief. Their petition was brought before that body in October, 1752, and must have been acted upon favorably, as shown by an entry upon the records of the Congregational society, dated Dec. 26, 1753, excusing Capt. John Sherwood, Nathaniel Seeley, Zechariah Mead, Ebenezer Sanford and Samuel Beardsley, Jr., "from paying anything toward defraying ministerial charges in this society for the year ensuing."†

In the following year an amicable arrangement was effected, by which the entire tax collected from members of the Church of England was paid over to the Episcopal clergyman of the parish, and numerous receipts from Rev. Mr. Lamson and Rev. Mr. Sayre, missionaries of the "Society for propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts," and Rev. Philo Shelton, the first settled minister of St. John's Church, may still be seen upon the Congregational societies' record book, showing that the arrangement was faithfully carried out. A copy of one of these receipts is given, not so much for its intrinsic interest as for the sake of the spelling, which was doubtless considered very fair at the time.

STRATFIELD, May 8, 1755.

Then Rec^d of Mr. Daniel Summers Colector of the parish of Stratfield the Sum of fifteen pounds thirteen Shillings old Tenor, in full of all my demands for Rats from s^d parish, for the year seventeen Hundred & fifty-three.

1 say Rec^d pr. me, JOS: LAMSON Miss^{ry}

A True Coppy of the oridgnal recept.

Test: B. Fayerweather, Recorder.

^{* &}quot;Stratford and the Boothe family," page 9; (New York, 1862.) The subject is fully discussed in this valuable little volume.

[†] The Assembly would not have been consistent had it declined to afford them takef, since by the laws enacted in 1669 and 1727 the practice of toleration had been distinctly enjoined.

I This had been done in Stratford since 1725, as shown by the receipts of Rev. Mr. Johnson in the records.



A romantic story is told concerning Rev. Mr. Lamson, whose name is signed to this receipt. He was betrothed to Miss Abigail Ramsey of Fairfield, a young lady of good family and unusual personal attractions, though but about sixteen years of age. While on a visit to friends in Stratford she was taken suddenly and alarmingly ill, and it soon became evident there was no hope of her recovery. Mr. Lamson was summoned to her bedside to bid her farewell, and before her death she directed that her gold beads, ornaments greatly prized at that day, and worn only by persons of wealth and station, should be taken from her neck and given to her lover. He wore them around his neck to the day of his death, many years afterward.*

The remains of the young lady repose in the burying ground at Stratford, and the stone above her grave bears this epitaph:

"Wasting sickness spoiled thy beauteous form, And death consigned thee to thy kindred worm. The day advances when the same shall rise. With sparkling glory, and ascend the skies."

While upon the subject of ministers we must not forget to mention the Rev. Lyman Hall, who was settled over the North church for a time. It is a fact little known and that has escaped the attention of biographers, that this is the same person as Dr. Lyman Hall, who, a number of years afterward, as delegate from Georgia to the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. A comparison of his signature to this renowned document with the writing upon the Church records would be sufficient to settle the question, were there no other proof, which, fortunately, is not the case.

Lyman Hall was born at Wallingford in this state, April 12, 1724, and graduated at Yale College in 1747.

After graduation he studied theology with his uncle, Rev. Samuel Hall, of Cheshire, and on the 27th of September, 174 // / accepted an invitation to settle over the church in Stratfield.

The meeting-house then occupied by the society was the same venerable structure which some of the older readers of this sketch will remember as standing on the corner of Division street and the old stage road.

^{*} The date of this incident must have been before his admission to the ministry, for Miss Ramsey died in 1743, while it was not until the following year that Mr. Lamson sailed to Europe to obtain Holy Orders.



His ministry was of brief duration. He was dismissed June 18, 1751, and probably soon afterward studied medicine, as we find him in the year 1752 a practicing physician, and member of the Congregational Church in that remarkable colony from New England which settled the parish of St. Johns in Georgia. This colony deserves more than a passing notice.

In August, 1754, two years after the arrival of Dr. Hall, having completed a temporary place of worship, its inhabitants, then numbering eight hundred and sixteen persons, of all ages, entered into a voluntary compact, whose principal features were "to build a meeting-house, to support a ministry and its ordinances; to settle all disputes by arbitration, to commit the public business to three men chosen each year, to have an annual meeting to consult for the good of the society; to be governed in secular matters by the majority, and in ecclesiastical affairs to allow church members a double vote; and further that no one should sell his tract of land to any stranger without first giving the refusal of its purchase to the society.*

It will be seen from this agreement that while the colonists had by no means left behind them their New England principles they had introduced several improvements into their code that might be copied to advantage at the present day.

Early in the year 1775, impatient at the attitude of Georgia, which had for six months been hesitating and vacillating whether to join the other colonies in the contest for liberty or to stand aloof, and had even refused to send representatives to the Continental Congress, the parish of St. Johns elected Dr. Lyman Hall as a delegate on its own account. He presented his credentials and took his seat upon the 13th of May, so that "on that day Congress was composed of the representatives of the twelve united colonies, and Dr. Hall, the deputy for the parish of St. Johns." †

The patriotic spirit of this little community had a salutary effect upon its neighbor, and in a short time there were four representatives in Congress from Georgia, of whom Dr. Hall was one, and in this capacity in the following year he subscribed his name to the Magna Charta of American liberty, in connection with which it will go down to posterity.

^{*} Steven's History of Georgia, I, 380. Cong. Quarterly, April, 1868.

[†] Everett's Oration in Dorchester, 1855. Cong. Quarterly, April, 1868. Biographies of the Signers, III, 57.



His subsequent career can be summed up in a few words. A representative in Congress until 1780, his property was confiscated by the British when they occupied Georgia in 1782, and in the following year he was chosen governor of the state. He died in February, 1791, aged about sixty-six, leaving a good estate to his widow, his only son having died some time before. A few years ago the State of Georgia erected a monument to his memory, and gave the handsome stone that had been placed over his grave soon after his decease, by his widow, to the town of Wallingford, Conn., where it now stands. It bears the following inscription:

BENEATH THIS STONE

REST THE REMAINS OF

THE HONBLE LYMAN HALL,

FORMERLY GOVERNOR OF THIS STATE,

WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE 19th OF OCTOBER, 1790,

IN THE 67th YEAR OF HIS AGE.

To thee, so mourned in death, so loved in life,— The childless parent, and the widowed wife With tears inscribes this monumental stone That holds his ashes and expects her own.

Without detracting at all from the just fame of Dr. Hall, it may be doubted whether his patriotism and that of his associates in Congress was after all of an order any more exalted than that of the officers and the rank and file of the army who did the actual fighting, paying with their persons the price of our liberties and whose names have for the most part sunk into oblivion, from which it is a pleasure to rescue any little fragment like the story of Capt. Hull's exploit upon the Sound.

Capt. Hull, whose son subsequently became a Commodore in the American navy, was a native of Derby in this state, and commanded one of the light crafts known as "Commission boats," which were employed in privateering service against the British.



and Tories. Upon one occasion he ran down to an inlet or arm of the sound near Throg's neck, where the British, then occupying New York, were accustomed to send vessels for firewood. He found there, under convoy of a schooner mounting ten guns, and of ninety tons burthen, which lay at anchor in the stream, a number of these wood vessels loading, and surprised and captured one of them that night. The two sailors who composed her crew, he caused to be secured below, and with his own men numbering about fifty, carefully concealed on board, he weighed anchor with the captured craft, a little after midnight, and bore down upon the British gunboat.

When hailed his reply disarmed suspicion, though he was warned by the sentry to have a care or he would run foul of them.

"No, no! room enough!" he replied still keeping on his course till he ran under the bows of the schooner, and then with all his men leaped on board. After a short but fierce struggle, the schooner was their own.

With the two vessels, both under British colors, and his own boat hoisted upon the deck of one of them, Capt. Hull set out upon his return, passed unsuspected three armed vessels of the enemy lying at anchor off Eaton's Neck, and brought his prizes safely into Black Rock harbor.

Among Capt. Hull's crew upon this occasion was David Blakeman, of Monroe, a descendant of Rev. Adam Blackman, the first minister of Stratford. In the act of boarding he was cut across the abdomen by a cutlass so that his bowels protruded, but he held the wound together and lay quiet upon his back until the vessel was captured, when the British surgeon dressed his wound. He recovered and lived to be an old man. Owing to a peculiarity in his voice he was usually known as "Squeaking David."

Zechariah Blakeman, of Stratford, another descendant from the same clergyman, was killed by the British on the day when Fairfield was burned, July 8, 1779. His body was brought to Stratford and laid under the shade of an old buttonwood tree on the green, where numbers of people flocked to view it. It was afterward buried in the graveyard near the place where a stone still bears the name of his son Abijah, who was lost at sea. The story goes that when Mr. Blakeman heard that the British had landed at Fairfield, he with others hurried to the scene of action, saying

as he did so that he would bring down at least one Red coat, but was shot through the body by one of the enemy's sentinels while in the act of taking aim.

Perhaps this desultory and rather protracted sketch cannot be brought to a close better than by relating a couple of incidents connected with Washington's progress through this part of the country during and subsequent to the revolution. The first was related by Mrs. Alice Thompson, daughter of George Benjamin, of Stratford, who died in May, 1862, aged nearly ninety-eight years. She was eleven years of age in 1775, and may have been about thirteen or fourteen when she saw Washington. On that occasion she with other girls were picking berries on the banks of the Housatonic near the ferry, when suddenly a cry was heard that soldiers were crossing the river, and presently an officer with a number of others landed and asked the ferryman to direct them to the tavern. He replied: "Yonder is the tavern-keeper's daughter," and calling Alice bade her show Gen. Lafayette the way to her father's house. She walked beside his horse on their way to the village, Lafayette talking to her in his charming broken English, telling her of his children and asking her if she would not like to go to France with him to see them. On reaching home she found that Gen. Washington had arrived by the western road. Her mother thus unexpectedly called upon to provide dinner for two such distinguished guests would have apologized for her fare, but was reassured by Washington, who told her that all he wanted was simple food, and that what was good enough for her family was good enough for him. Mrs. Benjamin happened to have some potatoes, then a great rarity, and Alice obtained leave to place them upon the table. In doing this she stepped between Washington and Lafayette, when the former, placing his hand on her head and turning her face toward him asked her name, and after some other questions told her to be a good girl and gave her his blessing. It may easily be believed that she never forgot the circumstance.

The late Mrs. Benjamin Fairchild, who died a few years since aged over eighty, well remembered another visit made by Washington to Stratford while on his tour through New England in October, 1789. At that time Capt. Alison Benjamin lived at Old Mill, about half way down the western slope of the hill; the house is



still standing and is owned by Mr. Judson. This Capt. Benjamin built a sloop of forty-five tons burthern called the "Hunter, of Berkshire" in a field south of the road, just opposite his own door, although no water was in sight. It was nearly completed when Washington passed, and surprised at the sight, he alighted, went over to the place and questioned the workmen as to how they expected to get the vessel to the water.

In reply they told him that strong ways were to be built beneath the craft, to serve as a sled, upon which when winter came it could glide down hill to the creek, (a branch of Yellow Mill stream, fully a quarter of a mile away,) and with the spring would settle through the ice into the water. This plan was subsequently carried into effect.

[The writer wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to Rev. Benjamin L. Swan, who has made the early history of this vicinity a special study, and by patient research has preserved much that would have otherwise been lost.

Nearly all the incidents relating to Stratford in the foregoing sketch are extracted by his kind permission from his valuable manuscript note books.]



CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS

IN AND ABOUT BRIDGEPORT FROM MAY 1st, 1871, TO MAY 1st, 1872.

MAY, 1871.

- Ground broken for the New Standard Building, corner of Beaver and Middle streets.—Lewis C. Segee died, aged 76. Mrs. Lewis B. Ayres died, aged 60.
- 2. Dean, La Monte & Co's Woolen Mills, North Bridgeport, entirely destroyed by fire.
- 3. David Leavitt, President of the Housatonic Railroad, lost a \$3000 diamond pin in New York.
- 4. Steamer Stetson, disabled by an accident to her machinery, outside of the harbor.
- 5. C. L. Nichols' Cigar Factory, Water Street, burglarized.
- 8. P. T. Barnum's Great Show, exhibited in Bridgeport.
- 9. . Mrs. Samuel Loyd died, aged 27.
- 13. Attempted burning of Mortin's Dining Saloon, 94 Water St.
- 15. Francis Otz, badly injured at the Housatonic wharves while oiling cars. Died next day.
- 16. Orlando Rogers died, aged 60.
- 17. Gormly's Blacksmith Shop, on Middle street, pulled down to make room for the New Standard Building.
- Brigham Young, Jr., and wife arrived in Bridgeport.—Guests of Joseph Richardson.
- 21. Nicholas Sanger murdered.
- 22. Parker, accidentally but not fatally shot himself, corner of East Main and Hamilton street.
- 23. Large civic and military funeral of Nicholas Sanger.
- 24. Trial of parties for the murder of Nicholas Sanger, commenced in the City Court.



- 26. David Morrissey of Congress street killed, while attempting to stop a runaway horse.
- 27. Theodore Horton and George B. Griffin found guilty before the City Court, and bound over for trial before the Supreme Court.—Isaac N. Fuller died, aged 41.
- 28. Lumber yard of Messrs. Beardsley, Wilson & Co., burned, also a wooden building on the south; the old Hubbell place across the street, and the fine large new brick building occupied by F. A Bartram, and Messrs. McNeil Bro's.
- Mrs. Jennie Fitzsimmonds died, aged 28.—Mrs. Catharine
 S. Mallard of this city died in Brooklyn, N. Y.
- 30. Decoration Day. Large and imposing procession of civic and military societies.—Balloon ascension by Prof. King.—John W. Wilmot died, aged 50.—Incendiary attempt to burn the residence of Samuel E. Todd. Gilbert street.
- 31. First appearance of Joseph Jefferson in Bridgeport.

JUNE.

- Schooner Mariel of Portland, bound to Bridgeport, run down and sunk by Steamer Metis, off Cornfield Point.
- 3. First open air Concert of the season by the W. & W. Band, at Sea Side Park.—Wm. S. Humphrey, a well-known citizen, killed by the falling of a tree in front of St. John's Church.
- Mr. & Mrs. Fitzhenry, and Mrs. Graham, thrown from a
 carriage and severely injured.—Charles Gregory killed in
 a drunken brawl at James Stapletou's groggery.—Peter
 S. Gillis arrested and held for trial therefor.
- 5. John Eckel died, aged 53.
- East Bridgeport Savings Bank resolution passed in the Senate.
- 9. First Anniversary Celebration of Olivet Lodge, No. 139, I. O. of G. T.—Mr. Thompson, of the firm of Thompson & Wilson, thrown from his wagon upon a railroad crossing and narrowly escaped instant death.—Mrs. Susan Doane died, aged 74.—Philemon Libby, of this city, died in Biddeford, Maine.
- Proclamation of the Police Commissioners in regard to the closing of liquor saloons on the Sabbath.—Dr. John B. Snow died at Anoka, Minnesota.



- R. McCoy and Son's stable in Middle street, fired by an incendiary.—John C. Shelton died.
- Mrs. Sylvanus Cobb lectured at the Universalist Church.— Mrs. Abigail B. Whiting died.—Mrs. Julian A. Manchester died, aged 28.
- 13. August Kutcher's barn on Gilbert street, burned.—Thomas Lobdell died, aged 26.
- 14. Theodore Horton and George B. Griffin, indicted for the murder of Nicholas Sanger by the Grand Jury.—First day of their trial before the Supreme Court.
- 15. Geo. L. Hardy died, aged 24.
- 16. False alarm of fire at Lyon & Curtis', lumber yard.
- 17. F. A. Tischendorf died, aged 42.
- Anniversary Exercises of the North Church Sabbath School.
 Address by Rev. Dr. Eggleston, of N. Y., and others.
- 20. Last day Sanger murder trial, Horton & Griffin acquitted.— P. Burns died, aged 24.—Jesse McEwen, 8 years old, was badly injured by falling from a wagon.
- Hon. I. M. Bullock was to-day re-appointed Judge of the City Court for one year, from August 1st, 1871.—Mrs. Nathan F. Peck, formerly of this city, died at Hartford.
- Geo. B. Ambler of Nichols Farm, was accidently thrown from his carriage on State street, striking his head on the horse railroad track.
- 24. Geo. B. Ambler died, aged 49.
- 25. Park street Church held farewell services in Bethesda Chapel.—Funeral of Geo. B. Ambler, attended by the Knights Templar and Masonic Fraternity.
- 26. Meeting of the Proprietors of the Bridgeport and Stratfield Burial Ground Association, held at Washington Hall.—Bill also passed authorizing the city of Bridgeport to issue Bonds to the amount of \$175,000.
- Bill passed the Legislature to day, authorizing the rebuilding of Washington Bridge, by Bridgeport, Stratford and Milford.
- 28. A young man named Buckminister, accidentally fell and received a fracture of the collar bone.
- 30. James Wilson was seriously injured by the giving way of a flight of Stairs at the Union House, East District.



JULY.

- First annual meeting of the Mechanics and Farmers Savings Bank.
- 2. Patrick Flynn committed suicide while in a temporary fit of insanity.—Dead body of an unknown man found floating in the harbor.
- 3. Dr. Jacques accidentally thrown from his carriage on Main Street by the forward wheels being caught in the Horse R. R. track.
- 4. Independence day.—Baptist Sunday School excursion to Long Island.
- 5. Mrs. Johanna Kutcher died aged 26 years.—Geo. Hazelton formerly of the city band, died.
- 6. Trial of Peter S. Gillis for the murder of Charles Gregory commenced.
- Wm. Francisco, a contractor at Nickerson & Son's, accidentally caught his arm in a tennoning machine, which terribly cut it to pieces.—Funeral of Geo. Hazelton, attended by the Odd Fellows.
- Capt. Ludderlee, Chief Engineer U. S. Light House service, located new light, which is to be built on Bridgeport bar.
 —3d day Gillis trial; jury failed to agree.
- Very hot and sultry.
- 10. Very hot; thermometer 1 o'clock 91° in the shade.
- 11. Mary Amelia Jepson died, aged 25.—Frank E. Stevens died, aged 16.
- 12. Several Bridgeporters visited New York to-day to see the Orange parade and riot.
- 13. Bill passed House of Representatives consolidating N. Y. and N. H. with the Hartford and New Haven Railroad.
- 14. Schooner "Sparkling Sea" went ashore at the Cowes on Fairfield beach.
- 15. A schooner arrived at the bar with the new light.
- A. L. Winton's horse was drowned by backing off the dock into the River.
- 17. A large body of Odd Fellows with their families arrived here on an excursion from Astoria, Long Island.—Mrs. Clarinda S. Peck died, aged 91 years.



- 18. A bill passed the Senate authorizing the City Council to establish lines on both sides of Bridgeport harbor or Pequonnock River, for the purpose of regulating dock building.—Howe Machine Co. gave their employees an excursion on the steamer Novelty to Roton Point.
- 19. Barge J. W. Andrews, (Capt. Smith,) sunk off Black Rock harbor with a cargo of 240 tons of coal.—Old jail and land sold at auction for \$8,900.
- Charles E. Keith had his right hand mutilated by a circular saw at H. L. Morehouse's planing mill.
- 21. Fire on Henry street.-Levi Parrott died, aged 55.
- 22. Mrs. Frances Schmedlin died, aged 41.—Bridge street closed by order of the common council.
- Funeral of Mr. Levi Parrott at the M. E. Church, Beaver street.
- 24. Bridgeport Library received a valuable donation of books from the Hon. Charles J. Hoadly, State Librarian at Hartford.
- 25. Two men were capsized in a boat while out crabbing, and rescued by Officer Porter and others.—Mrs. Grace Harvey died, aged 67.
- Senate passed consolidation bill N. Y., N. H. and Hartford roads.—Mrs. Wm. P. Murphy died, aged 22.
- 27. Miss Susan A. Sherwood died, aged 20.
- 28. Legislature adjourned, sine die.
- Mrs. Eliza Winton died, aged 72.—Mary Λ. Lace died, aged 63.
- 30. United Sunday School Missionary meeting held at the North Church; addresses by returned missionaries and others.—Nathaniel Burr died, aged 91 years.
- 31. Accident on the Naugatuck road near junction; run over three cows, making a complete wreck of six freight ears; one man slightly injured.

AUGUST.

- Mrs Martin was run over by the cars near Lake street and received fatal injuries.—W. E. Norton, Esq., reappointed clerk of the city court.
- 2. Philip E. Northnagle died, aged 44.



- 3. A runaway and smash-up on State street; two young men slightly injured.
- 5. Mr. Fred E. Wildman died, aged 31 years...
- 6. Funeral of Philip E. Northuagle, attended by military and civic societies.
- Ella Carey died, aged 18.—M. Leverty re-appointed Street Commissioner.
- 8. L. H. Wilson and N. C. Corning were thrown from their carriage in Water street by the horse taking fright at a passing hand car.
- Reunion of the 5th Conn. Vol. Regiment at Riverside Hotel.—County meeting of Representatives to examine new jail.
- 10. Town meeting of voters to extend the limits of Bridgeport School District by annexing a portion of the old South District.
- 11. Union Temperance pic-nic at Fryes' Grove.
- 12. Wheeler & Wilson band excursion to Central Park on steamer Sleepy Hollow.
- 13. Miss H. E. Stephens died, aged 22.—Miss Gussie Noble died, aged 24.
- 14. Steamer Magenta arrived with a load of German excursionists from Newark, New Jersey.
- John Smith run over by the horse cars near Pacific Iron Works and soon after died.
- 16. Reunion 7th Conn. Vol. Regiment at Meriden.
- 17. Mr. Amos H. Fox died, aged 21.
- A party of the 2d Conn. Heavy Artillery left to visit the battle-fields in Virginia.—Isaac O. Pettit died, aged 58.
- Funeral of Mr. I. O. Pettit at the Universalist Church.—
 Mary O. Neil died, aged 82.
- 21. Bridgeport sharpshooters with the Wheeler & Wilson band started on an excursion to Hartford.
- 22. August term of Superior Court commenced.
- 23. Charles F. Potter died, aged 19.
- 24. Mrs. Caroline S. Simons died, aged 75.—Mrs. Mary A. Fox died, aged 46.—2d trial of Peter S. Gillis commenced.
- 25. Excursion Beaver St. M. E. Sunday School to Parlor Rock.



- 27. Geo. C. Glenn, policeman, died.—Geo. W. L'Hommedieu died, aged 37.
- 28. Common Council voted to purchase a stone crusher and machinery, at an expense not to exceed \$10,000.
- 29. Hamilton Commandery Knights Templar escorted by the Wheeler & Wilson band, left for New Haven to attend the annual encampments.—Reunion of 17th Conn. Vol. Regiment at Westport.
- 30. A plank fell from the 3d story of Wheeler's new building, striking Mr. Morse on his arm and breaking a bone.
- 31. Hamilton Commandery Knights Templar returned.

SEPTEMBER.

- 2. W. H. Meyers died, aged 28.—Peter S. Gillis sentenced to seven years in State's Prison.
- 3. Large attendance at the St. John's Church, services for deaf mutes, interpreted by Rev. Dr. Gallaudet.
- 4. Mrs. Phœbe Chichester died, aged 72.—Mrs. Susan White died, aged 60.
- 5. Dr. Gilead Peet arrived home from Paris.
- Gillis and three other convicts taken to the State's Prison.
 —Mr. Geo. E. Languth died, aged 65.
- 7. Two men and a boy were fishing off Gregory's Point when the boat upset and one man was drowned.
- 8. Dea. George Sterling died, aged 67.
- Frank Mundry, an employee of the Housatonic R. R. Co., was instantly killed by falling from the cars while in motion near New Milford.
- Patrick Dwyer was instantly killed at Platt's Mill, Waterbury, by the breaking of a guy rope and letting the derrick fall upon him.
- 11. Funeral of Den. Geo. Sterling at the South Church.
- 13. Annual school meeting at Washington Hall.
- Wm. Savage, of Stratford, was drowned by falling from the "Wasp" at the new R. R. bridge.
- Reunion 14th Coun. Vol. Regiment at Rockville.—Commencement of Jewish festival known as Rash Hashana, or head of the year.

- 17. A pair of horses belonging to M. De Forest, Esq., took fright and ran away; narrow escape from great damages.
- Reunions of the eighth and twenty-third Conn. Vol. Regiment at Norwalk.
- 20. Mrs. John Lewis died, aged 65.
- 21. Concert at Franklin Hall in aid of Soldiers' Monument fund.
- 22. Alice McCarthy died, aged 68.
- 24. A temporary light was placed in the tower of the new light house, for the first time.
- 25. St. John's Episcopal Society voted to purchase the house and grounds of Mr. Egbert Marsh, corner Park and Fairfield avenues, for the sum of \$35,000.
- 26. Reunion of the 2d Conn. Heavy Artillery, at Woodbury.
- 27. David Wakeman, of Green's farms, suddenly died, while driving down State street with his mother.
- 28. Fire occurred in a shed rear of the Bridgeport Iron Works, damage small.
- Mr. Geo. L. Ellis died, aged 42.—Mrs. Polly Hanford died, aged 75.—Mr. John W. Munson died.
- 30. Annual meeting of the Bridgeport and Stratfield Burial Association, held at the Mayor's office.

OCTOBER.

- 1. Funeral of Mr. John W. Munson, attended by the Knights Templar.
- 2. Chas. R. Hawley fell from the cars near Lyon & Curtis' yard and mangled both feet, so that amputation was necessary.—Grand opening of new addition to the Atlantic House.
- 3. Mr. W. E. Seeley's young child was seriously injured by falling from a window, 15 feet from the ground.
- 5. The Officers and Directors of the N. Y. & N. H. Railroad, passed over the road on a special train.
- 6. Opening of the New Park street Church to the public, with a grand concert.—James L. Dowd died, aged 54.
- Steam navy launch Witcheraft, belonging to Major Mallory, sold to the Navy Department.—Mrs. Fanny Hall died, aged 47.



- 8. Miss Mattie Grumman died, aged 18.—Bursting of the main water pipe on State, corner Main.—Terrible fire in Chicago.
- 10. Supreme Court of Errors commenced a session of Court.—
- General meeting of our citizens at Lyceum Hall, to contribute relief to Chicago sufferers.—Committees appointed
 —Mr. Cyrus T. Bachelder died, aged 40.
- 12. Chicago Relief Committee at work.—Whole amount raised about \$15,000.
- 13. New Light House in our harbor, was lighted for the first time.—Mrs. Margaret Densmore died, aged 81.
- 14. Mr. Fred. C. Bonnan committed suicide.—Stabbing affray in Hanson's saloon on Water street, between Peter Davis and Edward Fitzgerald.
- 15. News received of great fires in Wisconsin.—Mr. Simon A. Howes' horse escaped from stable and attempted to cross the railroad bridge, where he was captured in a perilous condition.
- Concert at Opera House by Miss Clara Louisa Kellogg and others.
- 17. Dedication of the new Park street Church, East District.—
 Funeral of Mr. F. C. Bonman, attended by the G. A. R.
- 18. Special meeting at Washington Hall of legal voters of the Bridgeport School District, to alter or amend school-tax.
- Burglary in Woodbury, about \$15,000 in bonds stolen.— Mr. Young Nichols died, aged 75.
- Rev. Mr. Synnott was thrown from his carriage and seriously injured.—Mr. Francis P. Parsons died, aged 33.
- 21. Fire at the store of R. Bernhard, 296 Main, loss about six thousand dollars.
- 23. Dr. Hubbard arrived home from his European trip.
- 24. Special town meeting at Washington Hall, to raise money to pay the County and State tax, as they shall become due.
- 25. Old poor hou e on William street, destroyed by fire.
- Wm. D. Cummings, aged 15, was fatally injured by the accidental discharge of a gun while out duck shooting.—Mrs.
 Victor J. Burke died, aged 23.
- 27. A man named McQuire, was run over and instantly killed this side of Derby, by an extra Naugatuck train.



- 28. Mrs. James McQuillan died, aged 43.
- 29. Mr. Thomas Long died, aged 32.
- 30. Five convicts taken to the States Prison.
- 31. Funeral of Mr. Thomas Long, at Saint Paul's Church.

NOVEMBER.

- 1. The contract of the Derby Railroad with the Naugatuck takes effect.
- 2. Arrival of ten cargoes of coal in our harbor.
- 4. New engine "Horace Nichols," for the Housatonic Railroad, was out on a trial trip to-day.
- 5. Annual meeting of the Bridgeport Bible Association, holden at the Park street Church.
- 6. Forty-four hundred letters mailed at the post-office.—Annual meeting of the Bridgeport Library Association, for the election of officers.
- 7. The roof of H. L. Morehouse shop, East Main street, was discovered to be on fire, extinguished with slight damage.
- 8. Mrs. Thomas Millington died, aged 55.
- 9. The city loan of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars was awarded to the City Savings Bank, at a premium of one and a half per cent. and accrued interest.
- 10. Mrs. J. Schmiermond died, aged 40.—Paper mill destroyed by fire at Seymour, loss, \$30.000.
- 11. Runaway of one of the City Bakery teams, horse slightly injured, and wagon fractured.
- 12. Fire started in a shed adjoining a barn on Washington, and extinguished without a general alarm.
- 13. First National Bank of this city awarded \$25,000 worth New Haven Sewerage bonds, @ 101 and 27-100.
- 14. Mr. James S. Utter was instantly killed by the express train at Southport.
- 15. Mrs. Elizabeth Bradbury died, aged 81.
- 16. Mrs. Ali Andrews died, aged 55.
- 17. Meeting of the legal voters of the Union School District, for the purpose of laying a tax and hearing a report of Building Committee.
- 19. Arrival in New York harbor of the Russian fleet, with the Grand Duke Alexis.—Mrs. Marinda Hayward died, aged 78.—Mr. Wm. Wilson died, aged 54.



- 20. Mrs. John H. Sanderson died, aged 52.
- Reception of the Grand Duke Alexis in New York.—Imposing military and civic display, 10,000 troops in line.—Mr.
 Samuel B. Ferguson died, aged 75.—Mrs. Margaret Cummings died, aged 44.
- 23. New Jail opened for public inspection, visited by about 700 persons.
- 24. Funeral of Mr. S. B. Ferguson, from Christ Church.
- 25. Special town meeting at Washington Hall, for appointing committees to stake oyster grounds, and take charge of the old Pequonnock burial grounds.
- Corner stone of Trinity Memorial Chapel laid by the Right Rev'd Bishop Williams, assisted by other clergymen.—Mr. Henry Seymour killed near the junction by an express train.
- 30. Thanksgiving Day. Mrs. John T. Williams died, aged 46.

DECEMBER.

- 1. Robbery of \$2000 worth of postage stamps at the post office.
- Bishop Williams administered the rite of confirmation at St.
 John's and Christ Church, to forty-seven persons.—Mr.
 John A. Robfe died, aged 47.
- Trial of postage stamp thieves before U. S. Commissioner M. W. Seymour.
- 5. Inmates of jail on Broad street 45 in number, were removed to the new jail.—Barn destroyed by fire on Middle, also brick building 41 Middle, badly damaged.
- 6. Postage stamp thieves were bound over to the February term, U. S. District Court.
- 7. Reception of Grand Duke Alexis and suite in Bridgeport.
 —Welcomed by Governor Jewell.—Visits the Cartridge Factory, after which an elegant collation is provided and partaken of; left about 2 o'clock P. M. for Boston, after a most enjoyable visit, (so expressed by the Royal visitors.)
- Destructive fire on East M in street, near Steuben House, loss, \$30,000.—Insured about \$15,000.—Capt. Stephen T. Moore, died at Black Rock light house, aged 98.
- 10. A thief was captured running away with a robe and whip taken from Mr. L. B. Vail's carriage, at West Stratford:



- 11. Mr. George Jamieson, at the Housatonic Railroad shop, had his right hand severely cut by a buzz-saw.
- Opening of St. John's Church Fair at Washington Hall.— Grand Officers of Connecticut and New York States visited Corinthian Lodge. No. 104, F. and A. M.
- Small barn destroyed by fire on Middle street, occupied by Mr. A. Reid, as a stable.
- Labor Reform meeting at Franklin Hall, addressed by Mr.
 A. Harrison, and others.
- 16. Barn on Leverty street, destroyed by fire.
- 17. Mr. Geo. A. Rubey's clothing store, in Water street, destroyed by fire
- Mrs. A. Candee, mother of the Hon. J. D. Candee, of Bridgeport, died at New Haven, aged 83.—Dolby Troupe, at the Opera House.
- 19. Mr. H. H. Blish died, aged 30.
- Schooner Excelsior, from Cold Spring, loaded with brick, came in contact with a mudscow being towed, and sunk near the Beacon.—Mrs. Lydia A. Palmer died, aged 41.
- 21. Coldest day of the season, thermometer 5° below zero.—
 Funeral of H. H. Blish, at Christ Church, attended by the G. A. R., and City Band.
- 22. Miss Kelsey, teacher at the Prospect street School, was presented with a silver ice pitcher and two goblets, by her scholars, in Room No. 1.
- 23. Money drawer of Mr. H. F. Hatch's hat store, was robbed of about \$100.00.
- Mrs. J. B. Atherton died, aged 39.—Mrs. Geo. W. Olmstead died.
- 25. Christmas.—Mrs. Charlotte H. Staples died, aged 49.
- 26. A young man roughly assaulted Geo. Arnold, at the depot.

 -Arrested and taken to the station house.
- Executive Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of this State were in session at Bridgeport, to-day.—
 Mrs. Dr. R. Hubbard died.
- 28. Mr. B. Ellis was presented by his workmen with a handsome silver tea service.
- Mrs. Sarah Norton died, aged 82.—Mrs. Thos. Burns died, aged 35.



- Mr. Edwin Hyde died, aged 35.—Police officer Mr. William M. Banks, brutally assaulted on Main street, near Washington avenue.
- 31. Funeral of Mr. Edwin Hyde, attended by the Masonic Fraternity.

JANUARY, 1872.

- 2. Mrs. Victoria C. Woodhull, lectured at Franklin Hall.
- State Labor Reform Convention at Lyceum Hall., to nominate State officers.
- New fire alarm completed at a cost of about \$10,000.— Mrs. Sarah A. Peck died, aged 84.
- 5. New railroad bridge over the Housatonic River, tested.
- James Fisk, Jr., shot by Edward Stokes, at the Grand Central Hotel, New York
- 9. Funeral of J. Fisk, Jr., at New York.
- Mr. Burton, of Long Hill, was thrown from a wagon in Bank street, and broke his leg.
- 11. Knights of Pythias ball, at Lyceum Hall.
- 12. Mr. Edward L. Hurd died, aged 23.
- Funeral of Mr. S. Booth from Trinity Church, who was killed in Washington Territory, Dec. 8, by a railroad accident.
- 14. Wm. Wheeler while in a fit of partial insanity, violently assaulted his brother's wife with a flat iron, inflicting serious injury.
- 15. A bill was introduced into Congress for the improvement of Bridgeport and Westport harbors.—Messrs. Meeker & Dowd's store, 55 Beaver street, was injured by fire.
- 16. Mrs. Cornelius Kirtland died.
- 19. Meeting of Republican electors to choose delegates to the State convention.
- Seventeenth anniversary banquet of the stockholders of the Wheeler & Wilson M'fg Co., held at the Sterling House.
 —A small barn rear 283 Main street destroyed by fire;
 Mr. Darby lost a valuable horse.
- 21. Bishop Williams visited St. Paul's Church and confirmed 32 persons.
- 23. The skeleton of a human being was found in a good state of preservation in the excavation going on at the City Hotel.



- 24. Republican State Convention at Hartford.
- 28. Rev. Mr. Hendrickson, of Waterbury, addressed a large assembly at St. Augustine Church on the subject of Temperance.
- 29. Water pipe burst in Wheeler's building and damaged Malley's stock of goods.
- 30. Mrs. Frank C. Bennett died, aged 20.
- 31. Daly's comedy of Divorce at the Opera House.

FEBRUARY.

- 1. New fire alarm adopted by the city.
- 2. Examination at Atlantic House of applicants for the West Point cadetship, to be appointed by Hon. W. H. Barnum.
- 3. Violent snow storm, most severe of the season.
- 4. A beautiful auroral display observed.
- Common Council voted to build a new bridge on the site of Noble's bridge at a cost of from \$12,000 to \$15,000.— Miss Ida M. Smith died, aged 23.
- Jury rendered a verdict in the Weed will case, sustaining the appeal of Mary Weed from Probate Court at Stamford.—Democratic State Convention at Hartford.
- 7. Town meeting at Washington Hall to consider Washington bridge matters.
- 8. Mr. Peter Mulligan died, aged 54.
- A barn belonging to Keating & Cullinan was destroyed by fire; a valuable horse seriously injured.
- 11. Mr. L. Papanti, formerly of this city, was scalded nearly to death at New Haven by his insane wife.
- 12. Mrs. Anna E. Porter died, aged 93.
- Mr. Isaac De Forest died, aged 74.—Mrs. W. H. Thompson died, aged 30.
- 14. Mr. Ezra Kirtland died, aged 71.—St. Valentine's Day.
- Fire in store and printing office, corner State and Water street.
- O. Benedict & Co.'s hat factory at Bethel destroyed by fire; loss, \$250,000.—Break-down of seats at Pratt's Equine Academy.
- Annual missionary concert of the Washington Park M. E. Church held; contributions amounted to \$430.

- Robert Morris, LL.D., lectured on Freemasonry and the Holy Land at Masonic Hall.
- 20. Annual meeting of the stockholders Naugatuck R. R. Co.— Annual meeting of the stockholders Bridgeport Steamboat Co.—Eliza F. Hull died, aged 42.—Mr. Joshua Lord died, aged 71.
- 21. There was a lively runaway, resulting in a general smashup on East-Main street.
- 22. Sedgwick Guard promenade concert and ball at Franklin Hall.
- 23. Annual meeting of the stockholders of the Housatonic R. R.
 —Mrs. Anna C. Deniger died, aged 42.
- 24. Russell Tomlinson, Esq., appointed County Commissioner, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Joshua Lord.
- 25. Robert Morris, LL.D., addressed the children of the Sunday Schools, at Franklin Hall, on the Holy Land.
- 26. Town and city meetings at Washington Hall to levy a tax.
- 27. Mrs. Amanda Butts died, aged 43.
- 28. J. M. Spiedel nominated for Sheriff by the Republican County Convention at Norwalk.
- 29. The old wooden block on Main street, owned by Elisha Hubbell, destroyed by fire.—Seven convicts taken to the State Prison.

MARCH.

- Franklin Telegraph Co. commenced operations to-day at new office in Standard building.
- 3. Mr. George Burroughs died, aged 58.
- 4. Race at the depot between Officer Arnold and a pickpocket;
 Arnold successful in capturing him.
- Col. G. Loomis, of the U. S. Regular Army, died at Stratford.
 —Town meeting at Washington Hall to hear report of committee appointed on Washington bridge, and pass resolutions.
- 6. Mr. C. P. Spencer had one of his fingers cut off by a planer at Gould Bros. Shop.
- 7. James Levy was taken to the insane retreat at Providence in charge of Chief Marshal and Dr. Lewis.

- 8. Wood house adjoining J. W. Hincks' barn was destroyed by fire.
- 10. Mr. Geo. C. Dunbar died at Stratford, aged 48.
- 11. Mr. Eugene Wordin was shot through the arm by mistake by a colored man employed on the premises, each mistaking the other for robbers who had been at work in the hennery.
- 12. Lecture on Woman Suffrage at Franklin Hall, by Isabella Beecher Hooker.
- 13. A number of Scotchmen formed themselves into an organization to be known as the Bridgeport Caledonia Club.—Mr. Matthew Lynch died, aged 65.
- 14. Mr. Richard Anderson died, aged 89.
- 15. Mr. D. W. Dexter died, aged 65.—Dedication of a new chapel on Stratford avenue.
- 16. The joiner shop of Vanstone & Burns destroyed by fire; loss about \$3,500; insured, \$1,500.
- 17. Rev. John Parker preached at Beaver street M. E. Church; about \$4,000 subscribed to meet the current debt.
- 18. Celebration of St. Patrick's Day.
- 19. Mr. Stephen Silliman died, aged 70.
- 20. The row of wooden buildings foot of Gold street were totally destroyed by fire.—The signal tower at the junction of the Naugatuck and N. H. R. R. blew over and became a perfect wreck.
- 21. An attempt made to burn the wood and coal sheds of Messrs. Wilson & Morehouse.—Union Reform Temperance Convention held at Franklin Hall.
- 22. A man with a horse and wagon tried to cross the track at Stratford in front of an approaching train; horse and wagon utterly demolished; man escaped by jumping from his wagon.
- 24. Mr. Edward M. Doten died, aged 26.—Mr. Isaac Blake died, aged 79.
- Mr. Wm. Roberts died, aged 83.—A little child of Mr. C.
 H. Bennett accidentally fell into a vessel of hot water and
 was fatally scalded.
- Mr. Stephen Tomlinson died, aged 68.—House of E. P. Jones, Esq., Broad street, burglarized.

- 27. Emma Young died, aged 35.—Good sleighing.
- 28. Union Reform Temperance meeting at Franklin Hall; Hon. John H. Russell, of Michigan, speaker.—A bullet was shot through the window of J. Sheehan's house on Frank street.
- 29. Fast day.
- 30. Republican meeting at Franklin Hall; speeches by Hon.
 O. S. Ferry and others—One of Hubbell & Jones' coal bins gave way, letting about 100 tons of coal into the dock.

APRIL.

- Election day.—Mr. James Pryer accidentally shot himself while out gunning, killing him instantly.—Mr. Frederick Welsch died, aged 28.
- One of Mr. Leroy Barnum's men accidentally thrown from his wagon on Main street and broke his leg.—Prof. S. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph system, died at New York.
- Funeral of James Pryer, attended by the Order of Hibernians, and Wheeler & Wilson band.
- The new bell for the North Church was raised to the belfry and put in place.
- 5. Miss Lucretia Deets died, aged 31.
- The old Olinstead place, including furniture, on North avenue, totally destroyed by fire.—The clothing store of M. Bauer, 388 Main street, burglarized.
- 7. Funeral of Miss Deet at the Park Street Congregational Church, attended by the temperance organization, of which she was a member.
- 8. Peter Semans' horse and wagon badly injured by being run into by the switch engine B. Soules.
- Meeting of the North Church Society, and voted to give a call to the Rev. C. Ray Palmer, of Salem, Mass., at a salary of \$3,500 and parsonage.
- Commencement of the N. Y. East Conference at the East Bridgeport M. E. Church.—Mrs. Sam'l W. Hough died, aged 52.
- 11. Mr. John W. Beardsley died, aged 72.

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- 12. A collision occurred on the Housatonic R. R., near Merwinsville, between two passenger engines; no one seriously hurt.
- 14. All the pulpits in town, except the Episcopal, were occupied to day by Methodist clergymen attending the Conference.—Mrs. Naomi Peck died, aged 73.
- 15. Mr. Harry Buckley died, aged 83.
- 16. Engine Litchfield, attached to the early morning train on the Naugatuck Road, broke down in East Bridgeport.
- Dr. E. B. Middlebrook assaulted W. K. Seeley, Esq., in the Court of Common Pleas.
- 18. New Haven Light Guard visited Bridgeport and were the guests of the Sedgwick Guard.
- Engine David Leavitt and tender on the Housatonic passenger train was thrown from the track near Lyon & Curtis's yard.
- 20. Mrs. Ann Leavy died, aged 55.—Mr. Benjamin A. Clark died, aged 52.
- 21. Annie Healey, aged 12 years, was fatally burned by her dress taking fire from the stove.
- 22. Mr. Thomas Lynch died, aged 46.
- 23. Mr. Joseph McKinney died, aged 29.—Schooner Sarah Elizabeth, lying at the Housatonic dock, had her sides stove in and immediately sunk, by being struck by a canal boat loaded with coal passing by.
- 24. A brilliant meteor seen in the heavens between 6 and 7 o'clock, P. M.
- 25. Mr. Stephen T. Allen died, aged 42.
- Mrs. Sherman convicted of murder in the second degree at New Haven.
- An unsuccessful attempt made to burn Bostwick's fish market on Water street.
- 28. Mr. John H. Fitch, formerly of Bridgeport, died at Hoboken, aged 23.
- 29. Miss Emma Cody died, aged 16.



Covernment of the United States.

			SALARY:
President.—Ulysses S. Grant, of Illinois,	-		- \$25,000
Vice-President — Schnyler Colfax, of Indiana, -		-	8,000
Secretary of State.—Hamilton Fish, of New York, -	-		- 8,000
Secretary of Treasury.—Geo. S. Boutwell, of Mass.,		-	8,000
Secretary of War.—Wm. W. Belknap, of Iowa,	-		- 8,000
Secretary of Navy.—Geo. M. Robeson, of New Jersey, -		-	8,000
Secretary of Interior.—Columbus Delano, of Ohio,	-		- 8,000
Postmaster General John A. J. Cresswell, of Maryland,		-	8,000
Attorney General.—George H. Williams, of Oregon, -	-		- 8,000
Commissioner of Patents.—M. D. Leggett,		-	8,000
Commissioner of Pensions.—James H. Baker, -	-		- 2,500
Com'r of Internal Revenue.—J. W. Douglas, -		-	2,500
Comptroller of Currency.—John J. Knox, -	-		- 2,500

Supreme Court of the United States.

CHIEF JUSTICE. -

Salmon P. Chase, of Ohio, Salary, \$8,500.

JUDGES-SALARY EACH \$6,000.

Samuel Nelson, -	-		-		-		-		-		-	New York.
William M. Strong,		-		-		-		-		-		Pennsylvania.
Nathan Clifford,	-		-		-		•		-		-	Maine.
Noah II. Swayne, -		-		-		-		-		-		- Ohio.
David Davis, -	-		-		-		-		-		-	Illinois.
Samuel F. Miller, -		-		-		-		-				- Iowa.
Stephen J. Field,	-		-		-						-	California.
Joseph P. Bradley,		-		•		-		-		-		New Jersey.
Clerk.—D. W. Middlete	on.											•
Marshal.—R. C. Parson	18.											

United States Circuit and District Courts in Connecticut.

Supreme Court Circuit Judge.—Samuel Nelson, Cooperstown, N. Y. Circuit Judge-Lewis B. Woodruff, Litchfield.

District Judge-William D. Shipman, Hartford District Clerk-Loren P. Waldo, Harrford.

District Clerk—Loren P. Waldo, Hartford.
District Attorney—Calvin G. Childs, Stamford.
Marshal—Peter R. Carll, New Haven.
Deputy Marshals—Philo F. Barmun, Bridgeport; Westell Russell, Hartford; Nehemiah B. Payne, New London.
Commission—r of U. S. Circuit Conrt—Morris W. Seymour, Bridgeport.
Registrars under Bankrupt Law—1st Con. Dist., John Hooker, of Hartford, 2d, E. K. Foster, of New Haven; 3d, Robert Coit, Jr., of New London; 4th W. K. Seeley, of Bridgeport.



BOARD OF TRADE,

Bridgeport, Conn.

OFFICERS OF THE BOARD OF TRADE,

OF THE

CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

1876.

PRESIDENT.

DAVID M. READ.

VICE PRESIDENTS.

NATHANIEL WHEELER, P. T. BARNUM,
JARRATT MORFORD, EDMUND V. HAWES,
GEORGE MALLORY.

SECRETARY.

T. R. CRUTTENDEN.

TREASURER.

THOMAS L. WATSON.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ROBERT T. CLARKE, NATHANIEL WHEELER, JAMES STAPLES, DAVID W. SHERWOOD, MORRIS W. SEYMOUR.

DIRECTORS.

ROBERT T. CLARKE,
N. WHEELER,
J. MORFORD,
E. V. HAWES,

B. SOULES,
M. W. SEYMOUR,
D. W. SHERWOOD,
C. B. HOTCHKISS,

HANFORD LYON,
P. T. BARNUM,
J. D. ALVORD,
JAMES STAPLES,
GEORGE MALLORY,
D. M. READ,
WM. H. NOBLE,
FREDERICK HURD,
S. C. KINGMAN,
E. S. BURNHAM,
CHARLES HOUGH,
E. G. WESTCOTT,

S. W. BALDWIN,

R. KOST,

Z. GOODSELL,

G. W. BACON,

W. H. WESSELS,

S. C. NICKERSON,

E. PARMLY,

N. BUCKINGHAM,

A. C. HOBBS,

E. L. GAYLORD,

R. B. LACEY,

N. G. MILLER.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

ON BY-LAWS.

F. HURD, D. H. TERRY,

M. W. SEYMOUR, H. T. SHELTON.

INVENTIONS AND MECHANICS.

GEO. W. BACON, E. L. GAYLORD, C. A. READ,

C. BLAKESLEY,

F. B. SECOR.

PRINTING.

R. B. LACEY, J. MORFORD, W. H. NOBLE, T. R. CRUTTENDEN, W. H. ADAMS,

M. W. SEYMOUR.

Preliminary meetings were held in December, 1874, with a view to the organization of a Board of Trade.

These meetings were attended by representative men, who took a deep interest in the matter as having an important bearing upon the future prosperity of our city, and resulted in combining sufficient strength and interest to warrant the holding of the first annual meeting for organization, January 15th, 1875.

At this and subsequent adjourned meetings of the Board and of the Directors, proper officers and committees were appointed, a code of by-laws enacted, and all the arrangements made that could be, under the circumstances, to start out on a vigorous and efficient career, with a total membership of one hundred and twenty-five.

The list of officers and committees of the Board for 1875 was given in the "Municipal Register" of last year.

During the year the organization has not been asleep. The Directors and committees have held numerous meetings and consultations, and much real work has been accomplished.

Results of such work are not always apparent on the surface. The following reports and statements made at the annual meeting January 12th, 1876, give gratifying evidence, however, of real, tangible success.

BY THE PRESIDENT, HON. R. T. CLARKE.

Gentlemen: -- It seems to me proper, at this, the first annual meeting of the Board of Trade of Bridgeport, to make a short statement of the reasons for its organization, and the claim it has upon our citizens for their active cooperation. I begin by referring to the fact—a common and well-known fact enough—that business men and manufacturing establishments do not always stay in the town where they were born. They change their place of residence Various causes conspire to produce these changes. One is the advantages of the city over the country, in a business point of view. Another, which gives such a city as ours an advantage over cities in the interior, is facilities for transportation. Men purposing a change of location are earnestly making inquiries here and there. They compare one city with another. They find out all they can about each one, about its churches and schools, its standing in morals and culture, its public spirit, its social attractions, its rate of growth, its probable future.

We have been so fortunate as to have had for a quarter of a century men of prominence and influence, ready to answer such inquiries in a way to help the building up of Bridgeport. We have many such men to-day; men who desire to have this city increase and prosper. Now, the Board of Trade is an institution which can bring these public-spirited men together, combining their



influence, furnishing information one to another of new opportunities for the city's welfare. This Board of Trade is a place for mutual consultation and suggestion. By means of it, we are likely to come to the wisest conclusions, and not only that, but to unity in our conclusions and our action. And this is only one side of the case. On the other side, this Board of Trade is a known and recognized place at which a stranger can make inquiries. He is not at a loss of whom to ask questions, or where he may make his wishes and plans known, and does not pass Bridgeport by in consequence of his perplexity on this account. And besides, the information which he receives from the Board of Trade, or the suggestions which he may hear there, or the inducements which may there be made to him, will have a weight which those of a single individual could not have. In a word, the Board of Trade is only an illustration of the principle that there is power in system and concentration; that men can do more when acting together with a definite purpose and a definite plan, than when acting singly and, so to speak, chaotically.

If this were only a theory, it would be undoubtedly safe and reasonable to act upon it. But this is not by any means the first Board of Trade. In other cities they have for many years proved their usefulness. And our own, though it has been in existence but little more than a year, is quite willing to be judged by its fruits. Let any one look fairly at what it has done, and he will be satisfied that it is a most valuable organization. Bridgeport has gained within a year some very important accessions. Notwith-standing the general financial depression, and notwithstanding a stagnation of affairs in most cities, Bridgeport has received additions to its wealth, its population, its reputation as a manufacturing and business center, which make the past year a memorable one in its history, and for a large share in this happy result, the Board of Trade may justly claim the thanks of our citizens.

Let me say further that this is but the beginning of its good work. It has in hand at the present time some enterprises from which the city, we trust, will yet hear favorably. And there is hardly any limit to what is in its power to accomplish. Bridgeport has unusual advantages. Its very location contributes materially to its attractions. It has beauty of situation and surroundings.



Its railroad and water communications are much in its favor. It is within easy reach of our commercial metropolis. It can increase rapidly in wealth, population and importance. To this end let all our citizens combine their efforts. Let us go on to make the Board of Trade more complete in its organization and more effective in its work. It has already proved itself worthy of general confidence and co-operation. Let it have these, and without any doubt the purpose with which it began will be amply fulfilled.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Committee appointed January 15th, 1875, were very soon called upon to meet and correspond with different parties in regard to their locating in our city. Early in the year our attention was called to the type-setting machine of Jas. W. Page, which was brought here at the expense of the Board, and its manufacture undertaken by one of our esteemed members, Mr. Gaylord. On June 4th, we held our first meeting in reference to the Sharp's Rifle Company. After several subsequent meetings of your Committee and some hard work by its members, as well as by other members of the Board, negotiations were entered into, the result of which is well known to all. Through the efforts of the Board, several small but important enterprises have been started in our midst. We feel that what we have thus far accomplished will not show alone in the splendid mills now in process of erection. but does now, and will in the future, show in being an advertisement of the superior advantages of our city as a manufacturing locality.

The fact that the Sharp's Rifle Company, the Lock Company, the Fire Engine Company, Holden & Reiner and many others have come to us this year, your Committee believe will be the cause in itself of inducing many more to come and do likewise. We urgently recommend that the citizens should not allow the ardor in this direction to cool one jot or tittle, but all join the Board of Trade and thereby keep funds in the treasury and life in its meetings. Your Committee think it proper to mention also at this time that our old established manufactories, upon whose disbursements we have lived in the past, are all reported to be in



good condition and business on the gain; and that through the efforts of this Board some of them have received additions to their capital stocks, enabling them to increase their product and thereby employ more labor. Having heard it remarked that it was all very well to encourage new concerns to locate here and help them, but why not help to build up those already here, we would suggest that it should be distinctly understood that the latter is as much the object of this Board as the former.

Respectfully submitted,

D. M. READ,
N. WHEELER,
JAMES STAPLES,
D. W. SHERWOOD,
M. W. SEYMOUR.

The Treasurer, Mr. T. L. Watson, submitted his report, showing a handsome balance to the credit of the Board. The Secretary's report showed the number of members, number of meetings held during the year and other statistics. These several reports were all accepted.

FIRST ANNUAL DINNER.

The first annual dinner of the Board of Trade was held at the Sterling House, Wednesday evening, February 23d, 1876. About one hundred persons sat at table.

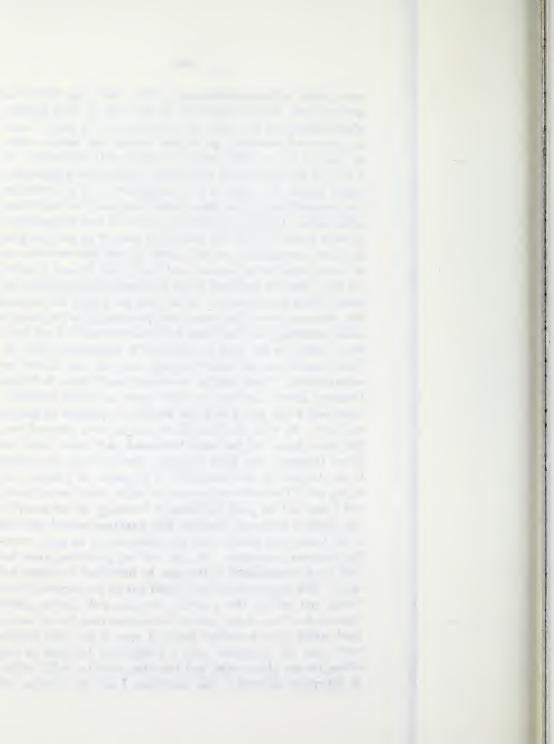
Grace was said by Rev. Eaton W. Maxey.

At the close of the repast toasts and speeches were in order.

SPEECH OF PRESIDENT D. M. READ.

"Gentlemen of the Board of Trade:—Looking back over the past, the vast accumulation of years is formed into the hill and plain, mountain and valley in their relative importance in the world's progress, there being those that stand out boldly, mountain high in

great deeds and accomplishments, while others rise above the common level through the record of one event of some moment. others sinking into the valley out of sight and out of mind. Years may come and years may go without leaving one sentence upon the pages of history, while others fill volumes with brilliancies. It is not that the four seasons have passed as other four seasons have passed before, that a year is to be remembered, but it is what has been accomplished in that three hundred and sixty-five revolutions of the earth. It is for us to-night to look back over the past score of years, which is within the memory of most of us, and see what has been accomplished; to look about us now and see what can be accomplished in this present; and then to look forward, (borrowing light from the past) and judge what may be accomplished by united efforts in the future. As we scan the past of our beloved city, there are years which stand forth prominently as the years in which something has been done for the advancement of our interests. Such was the year in which P. T. Barnum and Wm. H. Noble carried out the idea of making a city of what is now our eastern district. Such another was when the Wheeler & Wilson Company located amongst us, which gave us capital, enterprise, talent and a will power that has forced us to progress in spite of So when the Court House and jail were removed here. the years water and gas were introduced, and others when the Howe Company, the Brass Company, the Sanfords, the adding to our borders by the annexation of a portion of Fairfield, the laying out of the two broad avenues on either side of our railroads, and I may add the years that through the energy of our enterprising builders, have seen blocks of fine dwellings erected that add to the beauty and wealth of our city, and other, to us, great events too numerous to mention. As you will see, gentlemen, there has been much accomplished in the past by individual enterprise and spirit. The organization of this Board was for the purpose of combining and making this a public enterprise and showing public spirit, and so that all may help to bring about ends for our mutual good which have heretofore devolved upon a few, and perhaps more upon the gentlemen upon my right and left than on any others, the one always right and the other never to be left behind in enterprise, although in this connection I can but mention one



(who necessarily absent through illness) might be termed the *staple* engineer of our success, always ready with open arms (and countenance) to receive inquiring ones and show up our peculiar advantages to advantage.

"The work done in the past and what has been accomplished either by this body or through the efforts of its individual members, it is perhaps unnecessary and would be impolitic to state, even if our native modesty would allow; and really, through the enterprise of our friends of the quill and type, the public are already pretty well acquainted with the facts, and our new friends, Messrs. Wescott, Miller and others, have recently erected some very handsome (and unlike most others) useful monuments to our memory, although we propose to show we are not dead nor sleeping.

"The present, gentlemen, is here. We have come together this evening socially, to compare notes. (I hope all the notes issued here may be endorsed by the public.) I trust that gentlemen will express their views as to what should, can and will be done for the greatest good to the greatest number in our lovely city by the Seaside Park.

"With a few suggestions which occur to me in regard to what can be done in the future, I will give way to those who are better able to make your duty plain. I would respectfully call attention to the advantage it would be to us to have the facilities for getting to our city from any point from which we should naturally draw trade, easier or as easy, and the fare less than to any other business center, which I believe is not the case at present, and the accomplishment of which object, I think would come within the range of our duties.

"I think attention should be given to the making up of our grand list. This is a matter which may be open to discussion, but which I think is at least worthy of that in our Board. I think it comes within the province of this Board to endeavor, by resolution and petition, to have proper municipal laws enacted where they bear directly upon manufacturing and mercantile interests and taxation. (I have an important instance of this matter now in mind which I propose to lay before you at our next meeting.) There are many things of various kinds which to my mind come within the scope of this institution, to which I would like to call

attention had I the time, and which I hope to hear spoken of, yea, carried out, if all present will make up their minds to-night that when they see that little notice, 'Meeting of the Board of Trade,' they will attend and add their influence and a little of their time to advance the interests of our beautiful, homelike city, that can boast of its beautiful park, its churches and its manufactories, etc.

"Again, I say there are but few, comparatively, of the years that pass over our heads that we can make tell; let this be one of them, and let every citizen feel that it is his bounden duty (and pleasure also) to see that he has done something to advance our mutual interests."

The speech of the president was followed by speeches from Mayor Barnun, Ex-Mayors Morford and Clarke, after which Morris W. Seymour, Esq., responded to the toast, "Our Laws and the Legal Profession," as follows:

"Whether the profession to which I belong deserves the reputation which they possess of being the most modest members of the community or not, one thing is certain, and that is, that lawyers do not delight in talking much about legal matters on such festal occasions as this, and the reason is most evident. The public, open discussion of legal matters is a daily duty with them. Although I doubt not it would be of great advantage to Bridgeport to be renowned as the best governed city in New England, yet to make it such is rather the duty of the legislator than the lawyer, whose duty is to expound and make effective the law. I propose, therefore, to say very little about my own profession, nor can I feel that in thus traveling from the course which your president has seen fit to mark out for me that I am likely to trespass on topics appropriated by others, for the objects of this association are, on the one hand, as varied as the mechanical arts themselves, on the other, so simple as to be summed up in the single phrase, 'The aggrandizement of Bridgeport.'

"It is this universality on the one hand, this singleness of purpose on the other, that constitute its highest claim on our attention, and are its surest promises of success.

"What other object could gather, as we see them collected around this board to-night, men from every walk of life in our busy city, each counselling and encouraging the other towards the attainment



of one common object. It is not to be doubted that an enterprise so fathered must succeed—our patriotism to Bridgeport forbids any other conclusion; and as to the manner in which that success shall be achieved there will undoubtedly be almost as many suggestions as there are individual minds. But, Mr. Chairman, there are certain underlying principles to disregard which is to court defeat, and it is to these that I wish to call your attention in the few words I have to suggest.

"All admit that the objects sought to be attained by the Board of Trade are good and worthy objects. The only thing the doubters and scoffers—and I regret to say there are some in the community—see to find fault with, is, that these objects cannot and will not be carried out, because, as they say, what is every man's business is no man's business. Now, Mr. President, men carry on business to make money, to increase wealth, and no matter how chimerical the scheme may seem, convince a man that there are 'millions in it,' and like the man in the Scripture who having discovered the hidden treasure, he will sell all that he hath and purchase that field. Convince people that they can make money by attending to other people's business and they will attend to other people's business. Convince people in this community that they can make money by attending to the affairs of the Board of Trade, and that instant the affairs of the Board of Trade will be attended to.

"What, then, can the Board of Trade do for the advancement of the personal prosperity of every man at this table? To-day, I venture the prediction, that the aggregate amount of money lying idle in the savings banks and other monetary institutions of our city is nearly one-half a million of dollars.

"Build a wall around the State of Connecticut, or let the Legislature enact that all the wealth and capital of this State must remain and be invested within her borders, and money would not be worth two per cent. That fact sends thousands of dollars every year from this city to build up and enrich Illinois and the other Western States. Retain that money here; teach people outside that they can safely invest money here and be sure of a fair return, and the first great step towards success is accomplished, and the future of Bridgeport is assured.

"How can that result be obtained? Not alone by bringing in new business enterprises, as important as that may be, for the people would still lack the faith necessary to put their money in them. How, then, can it be accomplished? Mr. President, we all stamp our character, more or less, upon our fellow-men, and the stronger the individual character of a man, the deeper his mark. And what is true of individuals is equally true of communities. If you business men want your debtors to meet their obligations, meet your own; and, let me tell you, that when you do that, not only you, as individuals, stand higher in the estimation of your fellow-men, but in elevating yourselves, you elevate them, and not only them but the entire community. Let it be heralded throughout the length and breadth of this land that the word of a Bridgeport merchant or manufacturer is as good as his bond, and banking privileges would become matters of secondary importance. Money would flow in from all quarters seeking investment, with entire confidence in such a model community.

"Again, if a good name be above price to the individuals composing a community, may it not be to the community itself? If every member of this Board of Trade should make it a rule not only to speak well of Bridgeport and Bridgeport men, how long think you it would be before—

'None would know her but to love her, None name her but to praise,'

"How many men there are who go through this life living on a reputation that they long since have ceased to deserve. Yea, and it is true, as that shrewd student of human nature, Oliver Wendell Holmes, has observed, that many a man goes through life living on the reputation of the reputation he might have earned. Why is it, my fellow citizens, that the name, Hartford, attached to any kind of an insurance company, is throughout the length and breadth of our land considered a perfect guarantee of security? Simply because Hartford's pride has in the past carried the matter so far, that to-day Hartford's interest compels her to sustain her pride.

"Many other valuable lessons might be learned, my fellow citizens, from that same city of Hartford. Why, it is a cardinal principle in every Hartford man's faith that there is only one place



to build a State house, and if you want a Governor, a United States Senator, or any other man to fill any position under heaven, Hartford is sure to have just the man to fill it.

"If then, Mr. President, through the instrumentality of the Board of Trade, we can gain the reputation of sterling honesty for this community, and can impart to others the respect we ourselves feel for the individual members of it, by speaking well of them, it seems to me only one other thing is necessary to insure our success, and that is to so treat the business enterprises that are already located here, as to induce others to come in and cast their lot with Let us not forget that there are now in our midst enterprises which have, without any outside assistance, brought themselves into such a condition that if they could only have a little help, in the way of capital, they not only could give employment to large numbers of people, but could certainly pay a fair per cent. on all the money thus given; and would it not be true that money thus given would be twice blest? The responsibilities of wealth, though few seek to avoid them, are immense. Without quoting Scriptures to substantiate it, I say that the Board of Trade in its efforts to get capital to give an opportunity for the poor and needy to support themselves, not only will bring back money to the pockets of those who assist, but obeys almost to the letter, Bible teaching.

"No nobler charity, no grander work exists on earth than the effort to help Christ's poor, and if that effort takes a form which instead of enervating, strengthens; instead of making dependent, makes independent; instead of slothful, discontented consumers, makes busy, happy producers, how blessed the community! Composed of citizens, who heeding the cry of the poor and needy have not only given them a chance to labor for their own living, but have so used that labor as to produce wealth and plenty for themselves! Built then on the true foundation, commercial honesty, a charity that speaketh no evil, a desire to help our fellow-men, the enterprise cannot fail, for the right must succeed."

John D. Candee, Esq., spoke of the origin of the Board of Trade, giving to E. V. Hawes, Esq., the credit of being the father of the organization.

The chairman introduced Hon. Nathaniel Wheeler as follows: "Our Manufacturing Interests." "Genius is not alone displayed

in the invention of a mechanical device; the mind that can invent the ways and means to raise that device from its grovelling, struggling, wriggling poverty to be a blessing to millions, and build a city on the proceeds thereof, is indeed an inventor—a genius; and when God has given that mind a great and noble heart that can come out of its house of clay and know that it does not live for itself alone, then, indeed, we have not only the inventor but a benefactor. I call upon the Hon. Nathaniel Wheeler."

Mr. Wheeler said he was very happy to join with the Board of Trade in their efforts, for it was an object in which he had been engaged for years. From the time of his residence here, he became so much impressed with the advantages of the place that he felt it a duty to do all in his power to hasten its growth and prosperity. He had been seconded in this work by many of our citizens, but hoped that in the future they would lead, and it would be left for him to second their efforts and those of the Board of Co-operation was necessary to secure the best results. had been his good fortune to introduce many strangers and urge upon them our advantages, and the first great inducement held out was the low price of land. Thanks to the foresight of General Noble, who projected the system which made East Bridgeport what it is to-day, the sites for factories had been owned by a few individuals. If the land had been in small parcels the history of the city would have been entirely different. Gen. Noble had also laid out the streets and planted the trees which had caused East Bridgeport to attract the attention of so many who were now its residents. When the representatives of the Cartridge Company and the Messrs. Sanford's hat manufactory came here to look for a site, he (the speaker) induced Mr. Barnum to sell the land much cheaper than he at first proposed. But Mr. Barnum had found this course had paid him in the rise of his other real estate. He was happy to see parties present who had not previously met the business men of Bridgeport, men who were now but little known, but who would make themselves known in the future history of the city. When two such industries had been secured in a few months, why may we not flatter ourselves that Bridgeport is bound to grow in spite of hard times. It was the industry of the masses engaged in a diversity of interests that made a place prosperous.

Mr. Wheeler made a complimentary allusion to the Benham Brothers for their "push" and energy in the construction of so many blocks of buildings. We must make concessions and sacrifices sufficient to bring new industries here. It would pay in the end, and besides every city in the country is in competition with us in this effort. We should not, however, be hasty to encourage chimerical schemes or proceed in a headlong manner, but should scrutinize proposed projects with a careful eye. It was a matter of congratulation that the credit of our merchants was excellent. Every man ought to manage so as to contribute to the credit and good name of the city. We had lived through a season of wild speculation and reckless profuseness and expense, and now success could only be obtained by a return to the careful economic business principles of our fathers.

Rev. E. W. Maxcy responded to the toast, "The Clergy," after which the chairman called upon Gen. Wm. H. Noble, who spoke as follows:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen: - If you do not make a presentation of the advantages of your place no one will see them. is not alone a hard, business association, but a society of fellowship. With regard to our public improvements, what should they As to our business, he who spoke so well on that matter has done much in having these broad avenues put through. In all the particulars you should follow out this suggestion, that there is the question of culture and refinement behind all. Look at Park avenue and Old Mill street, monuments for all time. Lay out boulevards in the outskirts where land is cheap. Connect directly with that splendid harbor of Black Rock; the finest harbor on our coast. What a port for that commission coal business which has been spoken of! Making these improvements as fast as we can bear the burden, we should make them a permanence. Make your thoroughfares so that they will last. Get rid of these mud streets and give us good solid roads. Connect our North avenue and others with the high roads of the vicinity and the adjacent hills. All these things give us character. Strangers see in the interior all that can be desired for a place of residence. Make too the work on our harbor of permanent value. Cut off the old point near the old steel works. We ought to have an

insurance business here. We have the material here. It only needs business talent and enterprise. We have off our shore a banking interest that ought to yield to our city \$300,000 a year of net income. I allude to our oyster banks. Let the Board of Trade see to it. In conclusion, let us not be discouraged by the troubles of to-day. Advance towards these ends though we cannot immediately reach them. There is not a town in the State that has the solid basis of future wealth and prosperity ours has. Look at all these things in a large view and go on hoping for the future."

L. Myron Slade, Esq., responded to the toast, "Labor and Capital," and Ex-Mayor Goodsell to "Bridgeport's Advantages."

The toast, "Our Invited Guests," called out E. G. Westcott,

Esq., of Sharp's Rifle Company, who said:

"Mr. President and Gentlemen:—When I came here I did not expect to speak. I am pleased to meet the Board of Trade who were instrumental in bringing me with one hundred others here. I have long watched your industry and activity. You have a delightful town, but it is not yet enough of a manufacturing town. I am glad to be with you, and to make your acquaintance."

Mr. Wheeler here called upon Mr. Farist of the Steel Works, and Mr. Miller of the Lock Company, and after paying a handsome tribute to their business capacity and usefulness, introduced them to the Board.

Mr. Wm. H. Stevenson responded to the toast, "Railroads"; after which, on motion of Mr. Wheeler, it was unanimously voted to have a banquet regularly every year.

A committee appointed for that purpose drafted and procured the passage of the following "Act of Incorporation" by the General Assembly of the State, at its late May session, which, it is thought, gives the organization a better basis, and to which special attention is invited. The arbitration feature is regarded by many with especial interest, and undoubtedly is capable of being made very useful.

The Board will be called upon to reorganize on the basis of this Act within three months from the date of its passage, viz., June 20th, 1876.

By this act we became eligible to membership in the National Board of Trade. At the recent meeting of the National Board in New York this Board was then admitted, and was represented by the President, David M. Read, Esq., and M. W. Seymour, Esq., who attended the sessions of three days. They have not yet made a formal report, but it is understood they were deeply impressed with the dignity and character of the body, and pleased and profited by the discussions of the important subjects presented.

The Act of Incorporation is as follows:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAY SESSION, A. D. 1876.

INCORPORATING THE BRIDGEPORT BOARD OF TRADE.

Resolved by this Assembly:

SECTION 1. That Nathaniel Wheeler, David M. Read, Jarratt Morford, George Mallory, George W. Bacon, Robert T. Clarke, Morris W. Seymour, William H. Noble, T. R. Cruttenden, Nathan Buckingham, Frederick Hurd, David W. Sherwood, Edmund V. Hawes, James Staples, Blaise Soules, Charles B. Hotchkiss. Rowland B. Lacey, Zalmon Goodsell, Wm. H. Stevenson, Thomas L. Watson, Morris B. Beardsley and Wm. H. Adams, of the Town of Bridgeport, in the County of Fairfield, State of Connecticut. with such other persons as shall be associated with them, and their successors, be and are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, and denominated "The Bridgeport Board of Trade," and by that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all courts, and have and use a seal, and alter the same at pleasure, may purchase, lease, hold and possess so much real and personal property as may be necessary and convenient for the uses and object of said corporation, not exceeding five thousand dollars, and create capital stock of such amount as may be necessary for the business of said body and in such shares as may be deemed proper, the sale or distribution of which shares shall be provided for in the by-laws of the corporation.

Sec. 2. The object of said corporation shall be the promotion of trade, the giving direction and impetus to commercial and manufacturing enterprises, the encouragement of intercourse between business men, the improvement of facilities for transportation, the



diffusion of information concerning trade, manufacturing and other interests, and for the general growth and prosperity of Bridgeport, also for the cooperation of this with similar societies in other cities.

Sec. 3. The property, affairs, business and concerns of said corporation shall be managed by a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and seven directors, who together shall constitute a board of directors, to be elected annually, and at such time and place as shall be provided in the by-laws of said corporation, and such officers shall hold their respective offices until others shall be elected in their places, and said corporation may proceed to elect its officers within three months after the passage of this act, and the first meeting may be called by any five corporate names hereof, signing said call, upon five days' notice published in two daily newspapers printed in said Bridgeport, and all meetings thereafter shall be called and all standing committees appointed in accordance with the by-laws made for the government of said corporation, which, when enacted, shall be of legal force and effect, when not conflicting with this act, nor any law of the State of Connecticut, or of the United States.

SEC. 4. The corporation shall annually elect five of its members to be known as a committee of arbitration; vacancies in said committee shall be filled by a special election. It shall be competent for said committee to hear and decide such matters of controversy as might be the subject of an action at law or in equity, as may arise between members of said corporation or those claiming under them, and as may be submitted to said committee in writing signed by said parties, and attested by a subscribing witness; subpænas for the attendance of witnesses before such committee of arbitration may be issued by competent authority, in the usual way, with the ordinary legal penalties for non-attendance, and the witnesses so subpænaed shall be entitled to the legal fees of witnesses in the Superior Court, within and for the County of

A majority of the members of said committee shall be competent to meet together and hear the proof and allegations of the parties. Said parties may be represented by counsel, and the award signed and certified to by a majority of said committee may be filed in the Clerk's office of said Superior Court, and upon such filing, a judgment shall be entered upon the records of said Court, in accordance with the award of said committee, which said judgment may be docketed, transcript taken, and executions issued thereon as in the case of judgments rendered in said Court; judgments entered in conformity with such award shall not be removed, reversed, modified, nor in any manner appealed from by the parties thereto, except for frauds, collusion or corruption of said committee of arbitration.

Sec. 5. This act may be altered, amended or repealed at the pleasure of the General Assembly.

Fairfield.



TRADE AND MANUFACTURES OF BRIDGEPORT.

ACIDS AND CHEMICALS.

Under this head we have establishments for the manufacture of sulphuric, nitric, muriatic and acetic acids, together with wood spirits, alcohol, acetate of lime, etc., in quantities to supply the immediate neighborhood, though the goods are also sold in New York and at various points within reach by rail communication. Bridgeport offers special inducements for trade of this character, as there is about us, and tributary to this port for shipping purposes, a large manufacturing industry, consuming in ordinary times two hundred carboys of sulphuric and fifty carboys of other acids daily.

The larger amount of this trade is now held by New York parties, who have the freightage on packages to this port and return to their factories, in excess of factories located here. The raw materials—brimstone, pyrites, nitrate soda, salt, etc., can be landed at this port as cheaply as at New York, and with less charges of every nature, taxes, rents, labor, interest, etc., there certainly should be great inducements for the location of this class of business in our city. Several sites convenient to water and with rail communications to all inland cities, can be had just in our outskirts. The consumption of these articles must necessarily increase, as does the factory interest close to our seaport cities.

BRASS ROLLING AND BRASS GOODS.

It is well known that this industry of our city and vicinity is of enormous proportions, nine-tenths of the manufactured brass of the country being produced within a radius of fifty miles of this point, and the larger share of the raw materials, as well as the rolled

metal and manufactured goods, being shipped to and distributed from our city. Few people have any conception of this trade or its bearing upon the outside world, yet the manufacturers of brass, copper, yellow metal, German silver, bronzes, etc., etc., in the region mentioned, represent an invested capital of over fifty millions of dollars, and employ thousands of steady, thrifty workmen. It is not an unusual sight to see six hundred persons employed by one concern upon the manufacture of lamp fixtures alone. This demand for kerosene burners and like small trade has developed an enormous industry in our section, necessitating the increase of already large factories, and employing thousands of the children of workmen; so that among the cities or villages made prominent by this copper and brass industry, one finds on every hand thrift, comfort and prosperity.

BRASS FOUNDRIES.

Although not a distinct and separate interest, yet in connection with kindred branches, ample facilities are afforded for producing brass and composition castings of all kinds, in any desired quantity.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The manufacture of these goods for the trade is confined in this city to one establishment. This concern has, during the past year, been reasonably employed, for the times, with very satisfactory returns.

The most of the large quantities of boots and shoes sold in this city is purchased of manufacturers and dealers in Boston, New York or elsewhere. The shoe manufacture should be better represented here, and it is to be hoped ere long it will be.

BREWERS.

This is a flourishing interest, which seems to be less affected by "hard times" than most other kinds of business.

Five establishments employ about thirty hands, and turn out as their product eight thousand barrels per year.

BIT AND BRACE

manufacture is made a specialty here, and the trade largely supplied.



CARRIAGES.

In the manufacture of fine carriages, Bridgeport early took a prominent position, and for many years it has been one of the leading interests. Previous to 1833, it was confined to the modest establishment of Mr. A. Carrier & Porter on Middle street, and Mott & Burr, on Clinton avenue, near the corner of North avenue.

About this period it took a new departure. The late Mr. Stephen Tomlinson, who had been identified with the Middle street establishment, and David Augustus Wood, both excellent mechanics, were joined by the late Jeremiah Judson, who contributed both capital and enterprise to the firm of Tomlinson, Wood & Co.

They erected a factory on Broad street, at what was then the head of Cannon street, and started out on what has proved an eminently prosperous and successful business. The house has maintained preëminence in New York and all other markets for the good taste and elegance of their work, as well as its substantial and durable character.

About the same time, Mott & Burr removed to the locality on State street now occupied by Messrs. J. Mott & Co., enlarged their business, and with some changes of men, have maintained a good record to the present time.

Though the volume of business is not up to that of the palmiest days, yet the reputation and standing of these houses are fully maintained by the present proprietors, and a healthy business is done even in these times of general depression.

Several firms and establishments which have arisen and flourished for a longer or shorter period here, have long since disappeared from the arena as manufacturers. E. G. Haight; Hurd, Fairchild & Co. of the earlier stone factory, North Main street; and Burr & Haight of the later; George Keeler of the old stone brewery building on Harrison street; the Union Carriage Co. in the pioneer factory of the E. D.; and after them in the same building, Brewster & Co., later of Broome street, New York; also Haight & Hubbell, E. D. The Messrs. Nichols, veteran manufacturers of light wagons, at Old Farms, Trumbull, have recently located here on John street; and Beecher, of Milford, has his principal salesroom here also,—not to speak of several other smaller establishments located in different parts of the city.

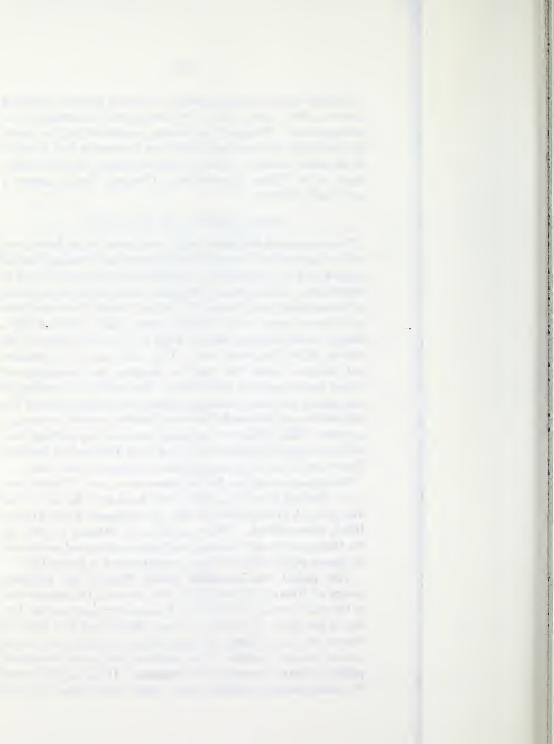
Carriage hardware and trimmings and coach lace are important interests, which closely follow the fortunes and vicissitudes of the carriage trade. Bridgeport has in many particulars led the market in these goods, and produced much more in quantity than a supply of the home demand. This is particularly true in coach lamps, those of the White Manufacturing Company having almost a world-wide celebrity.

CEMENT, SEWER AND DRAIN PIPE.

Nature provided Bridgeport with a trunk sewer in our harbor, and until a comparatively recent period, the water and drainage that did not find its way to the harbor was absorbed by the gravelly soil of either bank. Almost the only exception to this was the accumulation of surface water from Golden Hill in the "swamp" between State and Beaver streets, west of Broad street, which however had a natural outlet through Baker's Pond to the lower harbor in the vicinity of the Naugatuck dock. The rapid increase of population and business within the last two decades; the introduction of a more ample supply of public water; the opening and working of new streets, and more thorough grading and improvements of the older streets, with sidewalks, curbs and gutters, rendered sewerage a necessity. Many plans were proposed; town and city meetings were held, and much discussion was had with reference to draining Beaver and Broad streets and adjacent territory, without result.

The pioneer sewer was laid in Beaver street, now Fairfield avenue. Hanford Lyon, Esq., laid a brick sewer from the dock to the west side of Water street, to take the drainage of the Atlantic Hotel, about 1862-3. This was afterward extended in 1864 by the Bridgeport Sewer Company, to Harrison street, and constructed of cement pipe, 20x30, hub joint, manufactured in Jersey City.

This project was successful mainly through the persistent energy of Henry R. Parrott, Esq., who procured the subscriptions to the stock, managed its affairs and personally supervised the laying of the pipe. The sewer crossed Main street at a depth of sixteen feet, and during the construction collected and carried a heavy current of water. The wonder of the period, it attracted public curiosity, observation and comment. It thoroughly drained the entire section, including many wells never before dry, and



afforded those valuable conveniences of house drainage we have learned to value so highly.

The State street sewer followed, in 1865, built by the city under the power conferred by the new charter of that year, under contract with parties then of New York, (now located here), and most of the pipe was brought therefrom.

The practicability, the public and private benefit of sewerage was so thoroughly demonstrated by these sewers that the construction of others rapidly followed.

The manufacture of cement pipe was commenced and carried on here, and has grown to large proportions.

The bevel-joint was early introduced, and has been used, with the exception named, for sewers of all sizes, and also for house drains, with entire satisfaction.

The two establishments located here, in addition to supplying the local demand, furnish a considerable outlying region in Fairfield and Litchfield Counties, and have branches at several different important points.

The business has felt the general depression, which has affected the sale of large sewer pipe more than the smaller dimensions for house and other light drainage.

CARPETS.

The manufacture of ingrain carpets, started a few years since in a modest way, has grown to a surprising volume and excellence, in the latter particular vieing with the very best in the country.

CARTRIDGES.

The manufacture of cartridges was commenced here by the Union Metallic Cartridge Company in 1866. They employ from four hundred to five hundred hands, and manufacture cartridges for pistols, rifles and muskets, also for the Gatling gun, percussion caps, and paper and metallic shells.

Their markets are almost literally world wide, embracing the governments and mercantile interests in the United States, Europe, China and Japan.

During the last year the general depression has affected the volume of business and collections, yet the hands have been reasonably employed.

DOORS, SASH AND BLIND MOULDINGS, AND STAIR BUILDING.

The business in this line, which developed so largely within the last few years, has been passably good during the past year. It does not depend wholly upon home trade. The facilities and labor in somewhat reduced force have been reasonably employed.

FILE

manufacture has been extremely dull. It will require a general revival of business to bring it up.

FLOUR AND FEED.

For several years much attention has been given at the Berkshire Mills and efforts made to produce a fine and reliable article of pastry and family flour, and it is believed that such a reputation has been established. Several other mills, run by water and steam power, produce the coarse meals and feed for which there is always a good demand. The home supply is not equal to the demand, and large quantities are procured in the larger markets. One firm thus handles thirty thousand barrels per year.

FURNITURE.

Furniture for the home demand of Bridgeport and vicinity has been produced here from the earliest settlement of the place. At first, plain bedsteads, chairs and tables, a chest and drawers, constituted the "setting out" of almost every young lady, even of the best families. High post bedsteads and high back and ornamented chairs were indulged in by the few. The first named were the stereotyped product of the village cabinet and chair maker, except as the monotony was broken by the occasional call (always special and to measure) for the traditional coffin of cherry or white-wood, stained, with the rude plate bearing initials and age, or the same marked on the lid in brass nails, as some citizen paid the debt of nature, generally at an advanced age. (Children in those primitive, unartificial times were expected to live, grow up and make their mark in the world. They were considered in the words of Scripture, "A heritage of the Lord" and "happy is that man whose quiver is full of them.") The finer woods, now so common and so elegantly worked, were then very rarely used. The writer has in his family a writing desk of the olden style,



made to order, for David Sherman, the ancestor of the late Isaac Sherman, Esq. An apple tree was cut upon the farm, the parish saw-mill made boards of it, and the cabinet-maker transformed it into a desk of great strength and beauty, for the period. With care, it is good for another hundred or more years. Work of this kind was done entirely by hand, except some turning or special sawing at some horse-power establishment. Such an one a few of the oldest citizens may remember on Beaver street, or Fairfield avenue, on the premises now owned and occupied by Mr. Martin Bourke, of which the late Lemuel Hubbell was the owner and operator. The writer well remembers going there for a piece of turning for a fixture in the post-office as late as 1837, and so far as he knows, it was the only place in town where it could be procured. At an earlier period, Mr. Hubbell successfully used a wind-mill for power, and he was the sole cabinet-maker in the place for a long time. F. W. Parrott, Esq., learned the trade of him, and made the first sofa that was made in Bridgeport. Mr. William H. Peabody preceded Mr. Hubbell.

About fifty years ago, a shop of considerable size was built on the west side of Main street, a little south of State street, and occupied for chair manufacture by a New York party by the name This lasted but a few years. About the same period, William B. Thomas was in the same business on Bank street, near the North Church chapel, and the veteran, Fenelon Hubbell, was his apprentice. Mr. Hubbell joined Mr. F. W. Parrott, and they had a shop and salesroom on Main street, where Cannon street now enters it. They were burned out in the great fire of 1833, but rebuilt on what is now No. 476-8 Main street. They were crippled by the heavy loss at the fire, and as a firm did not succeed, and dissolved 1835. Carlos Curtis, in the meantime, had bought out Mr. Thomas, (who went to Savannah, Georgia,) and enlarged the business and facilities on Bank street. Mr. F. W. Parrott started anew near his residence on North Washington avenue, and Mr. Hubbell soon joined Mr. Carlos Curtis, and both establishments led off in the manufacture of a finer and better style of furniture. Mr. Parrott retired from the business some years since. Hubbell & Curtis are still in the field, prepared to lead the world in furniture and decorations.



Messrs. Frederick Lockwood and Nathan Buckingham commenced the business in 1838-9, which has grown to such large proportions under the more recent management of the latter.

The Furniture Manufacturing Company was formed as a joint stock concern in 1852, and was run with varying success for a number of years, when it came under the control of the present enterprising proprietor, Jacob Kiefer, Esq., who has made it one of the leading institutions of the city.

Time and space fail for the mention of other parties who have been or are at present engaged in this business, which has so wonderfully developed within the last fifty years, bringing comfort and luxury to the homes of the people.

The undertaking business, generally an adjunct to the cabinet and furniture business, has grown to its present elaborate character and proportions within the last fifty or sixty years, from a very rude condition, which the younger people can hardly realize. The writer is told that Mr. F. W. Parrott built the first proper hearse that was used in Bridgeport. He built the body with his own hands and Mrs. P. trimmed it, while the running gear was furnished him by a neighboring wagon maker. The same was used for many years by the late Isaac M. Conklin, whose death in 1860 was so generally deplored.

GRAIN ELEVATOR.

Bridgeport has the only grain elevator on the coast between New York and Boston. It was erected in 1871 by the enterprising firm of Crane & Hurd, and grew out of their connection and experience with the grain trade in the West.

It is forty by fifty feet at the base, and one hundred feet in height. It is run by a twenty-five horse power engine and the labor of five men, and is capable of taking in and storing eight thousand bushels of grain per day of ten hours, from either railroad car or boat at the dock. Grain is brought in bulk in rail cars from any point in the West, or by water in canal boat, barge or schooner from any of the larger markets, and here conveniently and economically handled and then distributed to the various points of consumption. As many as one and a half million bushels of grain have passed through this elevator in a single year. Mr.

John Hurd is the present sole proprietor. The business has felt the effects of the general depression during the last year. The prospect of large and fine incoming crops gives promise of a return of wonted activity.*

HATS.

Hatting was one of the earliest manufacturing interests in Bridgeport. Mr. Thomas Gouge came here in 1792, and commenced this business. His shop was on the southwest corner of Middle and Beaver streets; his residence corner Main and Beaver, now owned by J. D. Budau. Mr. Reuben Tweedy came from Danbury in 1793 and followed the same business. His residence was upon the opposite corner of Main and Beaver streets. He was soon followed and joined by his brother, Smith Tweedy, who lived on the southwest corner of Main and Beaver streets. The shops of R. & S. Tweedy were on Middle street, north of Beaver. This business gave name to the street upon which it was located, and many regretted the seeming necessity of exchanging it for Fairfield avenue.

In the earlier times, most of the hats manufactured were fur bodies, and the bulk of them were sold in New York unfinished, except the comparatively few required for the home market. Subsequently, machinery was introduced for the manufacture of wool bodies, (fine Saxony wool being used), which were napped with fur of varied quality. These were technically known as "napped hats."

Mr. Gouge employed four to six men and had a number of apprentices. R. & S. Tweedy did a larger business, employing twelve to fifteen men and five or six apprentices. They early (about 1810-12) opened a house in Pittsburgh, Pa., then on the extreme western border, as a market for their goods and for the advantageous collection of furs.

Smith Tweedy used to relate with great gusto the story of

^{*}This port from its earliest history up to 1830 was a mart for the purchase and shipment of grain to Boston, New York and the West Indies. Since that period, the tables have been completely turned. It would be interesting to note the rise, progress and changes in this trade, but it must be reserved for some future occasion.

meeting a certain neighbor on his return from a season at Pittsburgh, who was surprised at his particular inquiries, and when told by Mr. T. that he had been away six months, replied that he had not missed him—an illustration of the proverb, "out of sight, out of mind."

The Tweedys also started a house in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1820-21, sending out as business manager a young man they had brought up, by the name of Henry Jackson, of Stratford. This enterprise was not successful and was soon relinquished. R. & S. Tweedy owned and occupied one of the then new brick stores on Wall street, for finishing purposes and as salesroom, the same now occupied by Frank H. Stevens.

Mr. Samuel Hawley, Jr., who learned his trade of his uncle, Nathan Seeley, of Bethel, carried on the business on Main street, opposite Gold street. He died young, in 1826, and the shop was converted into a dwelling, the same now occupied by Dr. C. H. Bill.*

Mr. George Wade, a former apprentice, bought out Smith Tweedy in 1826, and the firm was Tweedy & Wade two years, when Mr. Wade sold to Curtis Beardsley, and for several years manufactured by himself on the east side of Middle street, above Golden Hill street, until in 1830 he purchased the interest of Mr. Reuben Tweedy, and the firm became Beardsley & Wade.

This firm opened a house in Columbus, Ga., with a man by the name of Palmer as business manager.

The troubles in this section of Georgia in connection with the removal of the Cherokees and other Indians occurred at this period, and Mr. Palmer was called upon to perform military duty a portion of his time, which withdrew him from his business and he was soon after accidentally killed, and the business was closed up at a loss to the principals. This firm introduced here the manufacture of silk hats, Mr. Gilson Landon being an expert.

In 1837 Mr. Wade sold his interest to Mr. Landon, and the firm was Beardsley & Landon until 1841, when the business was given up, and from this time the market has been supplied from abroad.

^{*}Mr. Hawley's residence was the next building south. His widow died June, 1876, having survived him fifty years, and continued to occupy the premises to the last, because she understood that to be the wish of her husband.



Mr. Gouge and the Tweedys were successful but were satisfied with a moderate competence, and withdrew when energy, enterprise and capital to utilize the improvements introduced in the manufacture of hats, and to command positions in the markets, were only needed to secure to Bridgeport a large and paying business.

Recently, Messrs. Glover Sanford & Sons have located a large and prosperous business here in the manufacture of wool hats for the general trade, with depot in New York.

HIDES.

Hides are collected here and salted from nearly all the towns of Fairfield County and on the entire lines of the Housatonic and Naugatuck railroads. This business has been done principally by the firm of Crane & Hurd, now John Hurd, who thus collect and handle fifteen thousand hides per year. Other parties handle about one thousand.

ICE.

The ice trade has developed to its present immense proportions within a comparatively few years. It was stored by a few families and hotel keepers, and small quantities had been shipped from Boston to the West Indies and two or three of our southern ports previous to 1830, but it attracted little notice. Many not very old people will recall the amused feeling and jocose remarks caused by the announcement in the newspapers of the departure of a cargo of ice from Boston for Calcutta, East Indies—the first in that direction—in the year 1833. It now seems almost unaccountable that markets, hotels and ordinary domestic operations could have been so long carried on without this now necessary commodity.

Mr. George A. Wells was the first to make a business of storing and furnishing ice for this market in 1846. Previous to that period Mr. Sturges Fanton had a small ice house, size fourteen by fourteen feet, on the old pottery lot on Main street, south of Sherman street, now owned by Mr. Wm. H. Perry, from which he supplied the steamboats and a few other parties, perhaps as early as 1840-2.



Mr. Wells secured his ice from the Keeler Pond at Berkshire, near the present Lindley street, and later from the Joseph Seeley Pond on the Island Brook stream and the Pequonnock factory pond. Mr. John D. Budau commenced in opposition to Mr. Wells in 1848, and continued five years, handling seven or eight hundred tons per year.

Mr. Thomas J. Moody also entered the field, and Mr. Wells soon sold out to him. Mr. Moody continued the business a number of years, when he was succeeded by J. W. Parrott. After a short period on his own account, Mr. Parrott got up the Ice and Stone Company, which in turn was succeeded by the present Naugatuck Ice Company in 1874. This company furnishes the larger share of ice required for this market. Their sources of supply are the pond of the Pequonnock Factory or woolen mills, for about one-half, and the pond at Seymour for the other half. The facilities established by Mr. Parrott west of Park avenue, near Union avenue, are of use only in favorable seasons. This company handle about three thousand tons of ice in a season. Other parties occupy a portion of the field, and in favorable seasons may add five to eight hundred tons to the above.

IRON FOUNDRIES AND MACHINERY.

There are in this city three iron foundries, where castings of all sizes and descriptions are made. Besides these, the sewing machine companies have extensive foundries for the production of their own castings, together using a very large quantity of raw material.

Machinery of all kinds, from the steam engine of one hundred and fifty horse power to a pin machine, is built here. Steam boilers of all sizes and patterns, iron railing and iron fences, machine forgings, and malleable iron of excellent quality is produced here, the particular mention and history of all which must be reserved.

This branch of manufactures has been affected by the general depression, and yet all the establishments have been kept running under close reef—waiting for the skies to brighten.

KNOB MANUFACTURE.

Door knobs and house trimmings in variety are manufactured by the Electro Casting Company, both in bronze and nickel-

plated, which are claimed to be of excellent quality and superior designs.

Door knobs are also a specialty with the Ornamental Wood Company; plain and ornamented in native and foreign woods of all kinds—also ivory.

JEWELRY.

The imitation jet jewelry and other fancy articles in imitation jet are successfully manufactured here by one establishment, sales of which are encouraging, considering the times. The business is thought to be capable of indefinite enlargement.

The medium and finer articles of jewelry sold here are purchased in other markets. The business has been well sustained, but quickly feels the effect of hard times.

LEATHER.

The manufacture of leather has had a place in the industries of this place from its earliest settlement. It is only at a comparatively recent period, however, that it has assumed any considerable proportions. About 1845 Mr. S. J. Patterson commenced the manufacture of patent leather in the usual variety, but more especially to meet the demands of carriage makers for tops, boots, trimmings, etc. In 1849 he was joined by Mr. Stephen Tomlinson and formed the Bridgeport Patent Leather Company, which was again enlarged in 1866, embracing all the modern improvements. The works are run by a steam engine of twenty-five horse power, and in ordinary times handle and finish from twenty to twenty-five thousand hides per annum. More recently attention has been given to the production of grain upper leather for boot and shoe purposes.

In 1861, Messrs. John S. Way & Co. commenced the leather manufacture here, which has grown to a large and important business. Their product is russet grain leather suitable for saddle bags, mail and traveling bags, suspender, strap and bellows leather. Their process is peculiar and rapid but the production is highly satisfactory as to quality, etc. Their-facilities embrace two factories, each with a forty horse power engine and boiler, and

all the modern labor-saving machinery and appliances. They employ eighty men, and at the present time produce thirty-five thousand sides of leather per annum.

Their hides are principally selected in the West. Recently they have given special attention to dressing buffalo robes. The buffalo hides are selected and forwarded from Kansas and the Indian Territory. The process occupies about two weeks and the production this year will reach nine thousand robes.

LOCKS.

Mail and other locks have been manufactured here successfully for several years.

Recently, the Bridgeport Lock Company have located an extensive business here in the manufacture of locks for the general hardware trade.

LUMBER.

The activity in building manufactories, dwelling houses, etc., has developed and fostered a large lumber trade, supplied from New York State, Michigan and Canada; also eastern lumber from the State of Maine. Two or three steam saw and planing mills have ordinarily been well employed in preparing lumber for building purposes, and large quantities, both in the rough and manufactured, are annually sent into the interior by teams and on the several lines of railroads.

The manufacture of doors, sash and blinds, mouldings and stair building are large specialties. They are intimately connected with and, for the most part, follow the fortunes of the lumber trade.

MARBLE AND GRANITE.

Previous to 1840 the marble that reached this point and vicinity was mostly brought in wagons from New Preston, in Litchfield County, or Dover, N. Y. It was mostly used for memorial slabs in grave yards. Special orders were largely taken by marble workers at those points, and the finished work delivered. The construction of the Housatonic & Berkshire Railroad opened up facilities for more thoroughly utilizing the quarries of Berkshire County, Mass., at Sheffield and Lee, for building purposes.



Large contracts were made therefrom for building the Girard College, Philadelphia, and for the Capitol and other public buildings in Washington. Special arrangements were made in 1842 for the transportation of large blocks weighing sixteen or more tons. A heavy crane was erected on Simons' Wharf, (now occupied by Lyon, Curtis & Co.,) for handling them.

The granite business was commenced here by Messrs. B. Ellis & Willetts on Simons' Wharf in 1851, and with numerous changes, Mr. Ellis is in the same business still, handling immense blocks of granite and marble, and working both for building and monumental purposes. In the advance and improvement of the public taste in the laying out and adormment of public cemeteries, the old-fashioned tomb-stone has become almost a thing of the past, and rendered monuments of varied size and pattern fashionable and common. This department is well met by the firm of Ellis, Warren & Co. and several other reliable manufacturers.

Special mention should be made of the powerful crane constructed by Mr. B. Ellis, and in use on the wharf in the rear of No. 394 Water street. It has a capacity of forty tons. It takes up a block of granite or marble, weighing thirty or more tons, from a railroad car and deposits it upon the deck of a vessel along-side of the dock with perfect safety and without seeming effort.*

The Lee Quarry Company have a contract for furnishing one hundred and fifty thousand tons of marble for the public buildings in Philadelphia, largely in heavy blocks, the delivery of which covers a period of ten years—three have already expired. This yard handles twenty thousand tons per year, including the above transfer.

Hereby is thoroughly illustrated the superior facilities here afforded for the handling and transfer of heavy freights directly from rail car to vessels or *vice versa*, the importance of which is getting to be more and more appreciated.

^{*}Capable parties who have been observant travelers in this country and abroad, say they have never seen any machinery put to such use, work with such perfect effect, ease and quiet, to either raise or lower those heavy weights or move them horizontally.



MARBLEIZED SLATE.

Vermont slate had not been much used, except in the vicinity where found for grave stones, previous to 1852. About that period it began to be used for roofing purposes. It was also found susceptible of high ornamentation and polish, and about the same period marbleized mantles of beautiful hues and combinations, and of elegant patterns and finish, were made. These mantles have been manufactured and sold in this city for the last six years, and are believed to have given good satisfaction, largely taking the place of marble. The slate is brought from Fair Haven, Vermont, over the Housatonic railroad and connections direct from the quarries.

MILL STONES AND PORTABLE FLOUR AND GRIST MILLS

are manufactured by Leonard & Silliman, of all sizes, and sold in considerable numbers in New England and New York, also in Spanish West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America. Their trade with the Spanish speaking people is of such importance that their catalogue and price lists are published in that language. The business was first organized by Mr. Josiah Platt, at Platt's Mills, near the gate on the Easton Turnpike, in 1835. They were afterward made by Nichols & Marsh at Moody's Mills on North avenue, and the late Mr. John Moody and his son, John T. Moody, were interested. The business came into the hands of Mr. Michael Callahan in 1855, and was located on Water street, between Gilbert and Thomas streets. Mr. C. was not successful and the entire interests passed into the hands of Mr. David Wakeman as principal creditor, who sold them to Mr. B. W. Leonard about 1858. Mr. Leonard has greatly improved the mill and machinery, and largely extended the business.

NOVELTIES AND TOYS.

It is worthy of mention that there are employed on these in our city several hundred hands and an invested capital of about \$100,000. The most complicated of mechanical toys, the veriest trifle found in the city bazaars, toys from the value of many dollars down to fractions of dimes, are produced in profusion and find ready market



throughout all the country—even extending to the other side of the Atlantic. We welcome these manufactures, employing as they do all grades of help, from the smaller working children to the best of mechanics at high wages.

OYSTERS.

Oysters of natural growth were never found in any considerable quantities in this harbor. A few could always be taken by expert or knowing water-men in the upper harbor near Berkshire, or in the "gut" leading to Yellow Mill. Oysters of natural growth are only fit for use at certain seasons, and during the months of the calendar in which the letter R is wanting, by common sentiment they are tabooed. When taken from their natural bed and planted in a favorable location and waters, after proper growth, they are not liable to the popular objection, but are wholesome eating at any season. Hence a large and lucrative business has grown up at various points in taking seed oysters from the Southern rivers or wherever found in sufficient quantities, and planting them. Fair Haven, Connecticut, has grown populous and rich out of this business.

In 1842, when the Housatonic Railroad afforded the only winter route for freight and travel between New York and Albany and the West, Fair Haven people brought large quantities of oysters in kegs over here for shipment. The wagoning was so much of an item that they thought it would be wiser to bed the oysters in the harbor and take them up as wanted, thus transferring a part of their business to this point. They found good planting ground in the inner and shallow waters on the east shore of the harbor and bedded considerable quantities there. The experiment worked successfully until the beds became too tempting to thieving neighbors. Unfortunately, jurisdiction over the premises occupied by the beds belonged to Stratford. Application was made to the authorities of that town for protection, but they would not grant it, and Bridgeport for the time was powerless; hence, with the opening of other channels to the West a few years later, the oysters were all taken up and the beds abandoned. Despite this ill success, our own citizens have staked out premises, and by



constant vigilance, successfully cultivated and secured therefrom oysters of excellent size and quality.

It is a fair subject for agitation by the Board of Trade to secure to Bridgeport an eastern boundary line, such as she should have had when originally set off from Stratford, and which will give us the control of the entire waters of our harbor.

Within a few years extensive beds of seed oysters have been found just outside the harbor, and at this season of the year a large fleet of oyster boats may be seen dredging for them.

Immense quantities have been taken and transported to other waters for planting. It is a question whether we have not some rights in the matter the public are bound to respect, and this also ought to have the attention of this Board.

PAPER.

The manufacture of paper is represented by the Messrs. Fairchild, who are veterans. This establishment affords the rare example in these days of a successful business transmitted from father to son in the third generation.

Straw wrapping paper is also made by L. W. Peck, and straw board by A. Tait's Sons, all on the Pequonnock river within the limits of the town of Trumbull, but hailing from Bridgeport.

The convenient fashion of packing almost every thing in paper boxes and paper bags has developed quite a large business to meet this want.

PACKING.

Messrs. F. A. Bartram & Co. annually pack and cure the product of about seven thousand hogs, which are brought from the West in the packing season, from October to April. Their market, in addition to the immediate vicinity, is Western Connecticut and Massachusetts, on the line of the several railroads, and a portion of Long Island. Their business requires the purchase of a quantity equal to their own packing and cure.

PLUMBING AND GAS FITTING

in all branches and variety are well represented.

PUMPS.

Submerged pumps for deep wells and security against frost are a Bridgeport specialty. They have great power as a force pump and work with remarkable ease. As no water remains in the pump above the water in the well, they possess a great advantage in all northern latitudes. The Forrester submerged pump is made by the Forrester Manufacturing Company, on Middle street. Messrs. Wilson, Parsons & Co., E. D., manufacture the American submerged pump. They also make a kind adapted for pumping out vessels, etc., of great power and capacity.

RIFLES.

The Sharps Rifle Company have located their armory here during the past year, for the manufacture of their celebrated arms. The attention of this company has heretofore been directed to filling military orders, but of late its success as a sporting gun has created a demand for this purpose, which is constantly increasing.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

If history only or principally was the object of these pages, one of the most interesting subjects would be saddlery. It was a very important element in the earlier growth and prosperity of Bridgeport; indeed, for almost half a century its relative importance as compared with the size and other general interests of the place, was fully equal to that of the sewing machine interest of the last decade and the present time. Substantial fortunes were realized by principals, and among the employed, liberal earnings, a generous rivalry and ambition, stimulated the germs of useful lives which often developed in other spheres, and numerous independent happy homes were secured and maintained under its fostering influence. The markets were almost exclusively in the South, and the late "unpleasantness" operated in several ways to render the market almost worthless and to change the sources of supply for what remained. The few, who hold on, do so in the hope of a change for the better.

In the way of harness and horse equipage the general prosperity

of the last few years, together with the opening of our Seaside Park, has created a demand and stimulated the production of elegant specimens. No finer and better can be produced any where than is turned out by several of our manufactories, and scarcely any finer display any where can be met with than at the Park on a pleasant Saturday evening.

SEWING MACHINES.

Sewing machines open a subject entirely too large to be satisfactorily treated in the short time and space now at command. East Bridgeport has been built up mainly on the development and prosperity of this interest; indeed, it enters largely into the life blood of our entire community.

The Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company located here in 1857, and their history and that of their machines has been one of prosperous enlargement and improvement from that time to this. In the excellence, variety and capacity of their machines, they stand almost, if not quite, at the head of the list of manufacturers. Their works are simply immense—in their various departments covering the space of four entire blocks.

The ordinary force of employees in all branches numbers twelve hundred, and a monthly pay roll amounts to \$100,000. Product five hundred to six hundred and fifty machines per day.

The renowned Elias Howe, Jr., established his manufactory here in 1862-3. Mr. Howe was essentially an inventor; as a manufacturer he did not excel. After his death in 1867, his heirs and successors enlarged the business to a capacity equal to any in this country, adding an important branch in Glasgow, Scotland.

Their factories in this city embrace an area of flooring of five hundred and seventy thousand square feet. They have turned out fifteen thousand machines in a month, and at the same time the parts for five thousand more for the Glasgow house.

During the last year their business has felt the general depression, and the product has averaged much less than the above.

The Secor Company are vigorously preparing for renewed activity under new auspices, which it is hoped will ensure abundant success.



SHIRT MANUFACTURE

was commenced here in 1836. Messrs. D. and I. N. Judson, it is supposed, were the first parties in the country to make a special business of manufacturing shirts for the trade.

In their clothing store, on the corner of Market and Cherry streets, New York, they had a department up stairs devoted to shirts. The first experiment was to cut out a few dozen shirts and send them to their sister, Miss Caroline Judson, of Old Mill Green. She superintended the giving of them out to women in the vicinity to make up, by hand, of course, at that period. They were properly laundried and returned ready for the sales room. The experiment was successful, and the business outgrew the strength and physical capacity of Miss Judson, when Mr. Wyllys Stillman became the agent or superintendent, and the business was conducted in the mill building on the stream at the head of Pembroke Lake, which has been used until recently as a depot and laundry.

Rev. Cyrus Silliman, then residing in Green's Farms, aided in placing the work in proper hands in his vicinity, and afterwards conducted a separate and independent business, traveling a wide circuit.

Mr. W. M. Stillman, who entered the establishment of Messrs. Judson in New York, as a boy, early became the superintendent of the shirt department, prepared the first patterns, cut, sent out, and received the work, etc. As Mr. S. has been continuously and is still in the business, he must be acknowledged a veteran.

Mr. Thaddeus Barnes came here from New Haven in 1849, and commenced the manufacture for Messrs. C. B. Hatch & Co., New York, at No. 360 Main street.

In 1853-4, Mr. Barnes built the original building of what is now the Burlock Shirt Factory on Golden Hill, attracted thither by the excellent springs of soft water for laundry purposes. He early introduced the use of the Wheeler & Wilson sewing machines, and is believed to have been the first to apply steam power for running them. Messrs. C. B. Hatch & Co. took the establishment in 1858, and enlarged and run it until 1861. The present proprietors have still further enlarged the buildings and perfected the facilities. Its employees number about three hundred

in the factory, and they have on their books four hundred other names who take work outside, a single name often representing a whole family.

Messrs. Judson Brothers, (juniors,) succeed in the original business and are located on Middle street.

Several other establishments of considerable size contribute to make the interest a very important one in this community.

A corset factory is now building on Lafayette street, which is expected to employ two hundred or more hands, and is considered an important acquisition to the Bridgeport manufacturing interests.

SOAP.

The time was, a few remember it, when every family made their own soap. The wood ashes were carefully stored. In the spring of the year they were brought out, placed in large hogsheads or other receptacle and leached. To the lye was added the quota of grease, a little potash perhaps, and a proper proportion of soft water. One or more barrels of excellent (or indifferent) soap was the result, which, with prudent use, sufficed until the seasons had again rolled their accustomed round. Then, also, the prudent housewife prepared the tallow afforded by the quarter or side of beef cut up and cured for the family use, and with suitable wick, by dip or mould, produced the candle of universal use. A few there were of less skill or thrift, or of taste fastidious, who sought, by box or pound,* the sleek or stately product of the veteran, "E. Gregory, Tallow Chandler, Beaver street, Bridgeport, Connecticut."

But time changes all things. The wood ashes have given place to sterile coal, and the most the prudent housewife of to-day can do is to lay by the soap grease for Fairchild & Shelton. The beef is now cured by the dealer, and the tallow of both kine and steer, no longer needed by the chandler, by some secret, artificial chemistry, is turned into butter, good, 'tis said, and now Fairchild & Shelton will utilize all the material husbanded, and furnish, by process unknown of old, excellent soap for laundry or family use, besides all articles akin, in quantity unlimited.

^{*}Candles, six or eight or ten to the pound.

[†] Gas and kerosene furnish better light.



SPRINGS AND AXLES.

The rise and development of this large and important manufacturing interest is within the period of the business life of many among us who are not regarded as old men.* These articles were formerly made in the smith shops of each particular carriage factory, as required. About 1842, Mr. Stephen Tomlinson of this city, patented a spring perch. This patent was purchased by Mr. Eli Gilbert, and he commenced their manufacture with the ordinary carriage springs for the trade in 1843, under the business name of the Tomlinson Spring Perch Company. His works were on the north side of Cannon street, west of Broad. The spring perch, though possessing genuine merit, met with but limited sale. The spring business, however, prospered and expanded. In 1845, Mr. Joseph C. Lewis was associated, and this arrangement continued until 1849, when Mr. G. retired on account of failing health and made his home in Florida.† The manufacture of carriage axles as a specialty was carried on by Mr. Ebenezer Wheeler and Mr. D. B. Gould, also on Cannon street, on the site of the present buildings of the Tomlinson Spring and Axle Company.

This branch was added to the products of the Spring Perch Company in 1852. Several other changes were made about this period, some of them on account of fires that occurred on their premises. The Spring Perch Company was organized on its present basis in 1854, and with some changes of men has continued to the present time. Its products have always borne the highest character in the markets, and its commercial standing is A No. 1.

In 1853, the Tomlinson Spring and Axle Company was organized, and soon took a leading position in the character and quality of their goods, and in the amount of their products.

Other establishments have followed, as the Bridgeport Spring Company, and the Ætna Spring and Axle Company, and their goods are sought and sold in all parts of the country.

^{*}It is said that Mr. Russell Tomlinson made throughout the first pair of carriage springs in this place.

[†]As an evidence of Mr. Gilbert's public spirit, it might be mentioned that the clock now in the tower of the Fairfield Avenue M. E. Church was his gift.



This interest has more or less sympathized with the almost universal prostration of the carriage business, and probably has not turned out during the last year, on the average, much more than one-half the usual product.

Mr. George Douglass has recently enlarged his works, and introduced the manufacture of car springs with excellent prospects.

STEEL WORKS.

Among the heaviest of the many manufacturing interests of Bridgeport is the production of cast steel. The Bridgeport Steel Works are situated most admirably, occupying about eleven acres of ground fronting on East Main street, and extending to the waters of Bridgeport harbor and the Sound, with a shore line and wharf front of two thousand, one hundred feet, thus affording facilities, as there is at all times sufficient depth of water, for unloading coal, iron, etc. The principal buildings include the melting shop, in which there are eighteen furnaces, with a measurement of one hundred and twenty by fifty feet; the rolling mill, (supplied with two powerful trains of rollers, five steam hammers, the largest with head weighing two thousand, eight hundred pounds, immense cranes, and every other mechanical appliance that could expedite labor,) measuring one hundred and eighty by ninety feet; a building seventy feet square for storage purposes; the pattern shop, office, etc., together with about forty houses occupied by the operatives. Power is furnished by means of two engines, one of two hundred and sixty, the other of one hundred horse power, besides a smaller one for driving the blast fan. annual consumption of coal is about six thousand tons. production includes rods and bars of all sizes, from less than an inch to four inches in diameter, and of various shapes, round, square, oval, octagon; together with forgings for crank pins, connecting rods for locomotives, spindles for lathes, frog steel for railroads, etc. They have lately been obliged to increase their capacity, which is now about four and one-half tons daily; this increase being made into springs, both spiral and elliptic. The Union Car Spring Company of Jersey City, used to be supplied with bar steel from these works, but latterly they have made arrangements to furnish the springs themselves, and have accord-



ingly had all the machinery and tools of the Spring Company removed to these works here. These springs take the place of the rubber springs, which cost thirty cents per pound, while these are furnished at twelve, thus effecting a considerable saving. These springs are in use by all the principal lines of railroads in the country, both East and West. These works are owned by Messrs. Farist & Windsor, who have had many years experience in the business of manufacturing steel, thus enabling them to employ all the most approved processes. They have for many years furnished steel to some of the most celebrated manufacturers of cutlery in the United States, to a number of the leading makers of pistols, fire arms, sewing machines, etc., to the principal car spring manufacturers, and to the United States Government for use in the construction of rifles for the army. The demand for their products is not confined to this country, but comes from several foreign countries as well. These works have only been in operation at Bridgeport some four years, succeeding the Bridgeport Steel Company. Their products stand unrivalled for excellence, there being no better made. The works are run continuously at their full capacity.

SILVER PLATING.

Silver plating has been carried on here for many years, in the production of carriage, saddlery, and house trimmings, etc.

Electro-plating in gold, silver and nickle, has in some measure changed the course and character of the business, much of it being done in direct connection with the sewing machine and other large establishments.

Close and electro-plating for the trade are still made a specialty by several parties.

SILK RIBBON MANUFACTURE.

The germ of what promises to be a remunerative trade has been established some little time in our city, and promises in its workmanship to be better known as the times improve. There is a good field for this branch of industry and a fair prospect of enlargement.



VARNISH.

The manufacture of a fine quality of varnish for first-class carriages and railroad cars is a specialty of the Parrott Varnish Company of this city.

The business was commenced by Mr. F. W. Parrott in 1840. He continued it in a quiet way for twenty years, at first giving more attention to perfecting his methods for producing a perfect article than in extending trade.

The present company was formed in 1860, embracing Messrs. H. R. Parrott and John D. Whitney, the former as business manager, under whose auspices the establishment and facilities have been much enlarged and the business extended. They have established a reputation for their varnish, which enables them to supply regularly the leading carriage and car makers of the country.

WATER MOTORS

to supply power for blowing church organs and for running any light machinery, are made by the Bridgeport Organ Engine Company, No. 88 Middle street, and are successfully used in this city and numerous other places. Connections with the ordinary street water pipes furnishes all the pressure needed.

CUTTING WOOD VENEERS.

The expensiveness of many of the finer hard woods early led to the use of veneers.

These were, until recently, sawed, by which process they could not be made so thin as is often desirable. The surface was left rough and required labor to smooth it, and one-half of the timber was wasted by the *calf* in sawing—a sad lack of economy—abhorrent to Yankee eyes and stimulative of invention. Hence the *cutting* of veneers, which fills the bill for economy exactly.

Soon after the location here of the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Company in 1857, and partly to meet their wants for sewing machine cases, Ray & Morris commenced this business on the southerly side of East Washington avenue, near the east end of Noble's Bridge. Here they were burned out and next located with Messrs. Lyon, Curtis & Co., using their steam power.



In 1866, Mr. B. Ray purchased the property he now owns and occupies on the east side of Main street and north of Congress street, and removed his works thither, increasing his facilities and materially enlarging his business.

These veneers are of every variety of wood, such as black walnut, satin-wood, white holly, rose wood, mahogany, maple, and other domestic and foreign woods, and are used for sewing machine cases, railroad cars, furniture and cabinet work, clock cases, pianos, billiard tables, brushes, etc. As such valuable wood must all be used, the pieces and scrap are carefully utilized in various small articles of solid wood and of different shapes and sizes.

Very long pieces of veneering are secured and with excellent effect in the exhibition of beautiful grain by cutting continuously around a stick of curled maple or rose wood, for instance. But the crowning specialty in wood work is found in the

ORNAMENTAL WOOD COMPANY.

Words can hardly convey an adequate idea of the ease of manipulation, the exquisite designs produced, or the many different uses to which the variety of woods are devoted. It is one more step in the pathway of civilization, that man's ingenuity has devised methods of cheapening the production of works of art and forms of beauty in wood, that the rich and poor may alike enjoy their acquisition. Much of the elaborate interior decorating of our modern houses, hotels, cars, boats, etc., is made possible by these industries, combining, as they do, the elegance and durability of the old carved work, with little of the expense. What is now done by enormous pressure and by means of dies in a few moments, formerly required days of patient, laborious work of skilled workmen.

GENERAL REMARKS.

On another page we have incidentally alluded to the fact that Bridgeport is conveniently and favorably situated for the handling and transfer of heavy and bulky freights. Our railroads, for a long distance, pass along our water front, and by means of cranes and elevators, transfers may be made from ears to vessel, or the reverse, without



touching the docks. Marble and iron, etc., from the interior; coal, lumber, etc., for the return, are thus handled in large quantities.

The broad avenues skirting our railroads, from North avenue to the harbor, in one direction; from Pembroke Lake on the east, and Ash Creek on the west, afford excellent sites for numerous manufactories whose heavier freights can thus be taken and delivered at their doors. The facilities of railroad and steamboat for transportation and delivery of freights to and from New York excel in time, regularity and economy. They are appreciated by all who use them, and would not be exchanged for Newark or Harlem.

Bridgeport has also abundant room for expansion, and holders of real estate are not exclusive. With the start already obtained during the last few years; with enterprise and effort, a spirit of harmony—a long pull, a strong pull and a pull all together—there seems no reason why her borders may not be greatly increased, "her cords lengthened and her stakes strengthened," in the near future.

Thus we close this rapid and imperfect sketch. Undertaken at the last moment and in the midst of other pressing calls and cares, it appears very tame and unsatisfactory to the writer.

We have touched upon the various products of our community and indulged in some scraps of history, not so much in the way of statistics, as to form a basis for future reference, enlargement and comparison. We have touched lightly upon some, and have omitted others, for the want of time to look up the data and space for the mention.

Bridgeport may well be proud of her manufacturing industries, their history and their character at home and abroad. Very largely, and as a rule, everywhere, to say an article is a Bridgeport production, is a synonym for excellence and insures attention.

It has not been within our plan to speak of dealers merely, wholesale or retail, who are an important element in our business interests. It is to be hoped justice will be done to these in a future edition.



APPENDIX.



BRIDGEPORT

AND VICINITY

IN THE REVOLUTION AND THE WAR OF 1812.

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

WRITTEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE CITY COUNCIL

BY

WILLIAM B. HINCKS.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

JULY 4TH, 1876.

I SOLD DUTLE

CYCCLOST 032

THE RESIDENCE OF STREET

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Extract from the minutes of a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Bridgeport, held March 30, 1874:

Councilman Candee offered the following, which was adopted:

Resolved. That this Council hereby requests Major William B. Hincks to prepare a historical paper, narrating all the local events in this town connected with the War of the Revolution, with such other events connected with the history of the territory now comprised within the limits of Bridgeport, either prior or subsequent to the Revolution, as he may deem proper, and to have the same ready for reading or publication on the day of the centennial celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

Resolved. That the Clerk be and he is hereby directed to send a copy of these resolutions to Mr. Hincks.

A true copy.

Attest

MORRIS B. BEARDSLEY, City Clerk.



CENTENNIAL HISTORY.

It may seem a daring flight of imagination for us to speak of Bridgeport in connection with the Revolution, when, strictly speaking, one hundred years ago to-day there was no such place as Bridgeport in existence. Our beautiful city, the third in the State in size, and, as we believe, second to none in many respects that make it desirable as a dwelling place, was then not only unknown to fame, but the ground now occupied by our busiest streets and most stately warehouses, was either overflowed by the rising tide, or was, at best, but a dense morass; while Golden Hill, now crowned by so many spacious mansions, was only a craggy eminence, surmounted by nothing more palatial than a few Indian wigwams. Fairfield and Stratford were indeed places of some importance, especially the former, which was a business center, and for more than a hundred years had been the county and court town; but Bridgeport was as yet represented only by Stratfield, a plantation upon the western border of our present township, embracing some one hundred and fifty houses, and a population of perhaps a thousand persons.

Let us for a few moments dismiss the present from our thoughts, and try to call up before us this settlement of Stratfield as it existed a hundred years ago. We find it rather a farming community than a compact village, and the houses are somewhat widely scattered, though most of them either front upon the old Boston stage road, now known as North avenue, or else extend along Division street, to a point far up the slopes of Toilsome bill.

The houses themselves were of that antique type of which a few specimens yet remain; unpainted and covered with clapboards

of riven oak, with sloping roofs descending nearly to the ground in the rear, and windows of diamond glass set in leaden frames and swinging upon hinges. Frequently the upper story of the house overhung the lower, and in every case the only means for securing warmth and ventilation, especially the latter, was the immense fire place in the great stone chimney, often twelve feet square, which occupied the center of the building.

As elsewhere throughout the colony the people of this vicinity were almost entirely of English descent. The occupation of the men was either agriculture or seafaring; for with the exception of the miller, the blacksmith and the tanner, important personages in every new community, manufacturers and mechanics were almost unknown; everything required for use being either produced on the homestead or brought by exchange from foreign countries. Sheep raising was a much more important branch of industry than at present, and broad fields of flax waved upon every farm. The spinning wheel and the loom were indispensable articles of furniture, and with these the women of each family produced all the clothing and linen needed for the household. Negro slavery was common. Almost every family of means held one or more slaves, who were in general kindly treated, and were sometimes members of the same church with their owners.

At the time of the Revolution there were three religious societies in Stratfield. The oldest and largest society was the Congregational, whose meeting house for more than a hundred years, from 1717 to 1834, stood facing westward upon an uninclosed piece of ground near the corner of Division street and the old stage road. It was the second house of worship built by the society, and, as some now present may remember, was a building of considerable size, possessing galleries, a steeple and a bell, but unprovided with fire place, furnace or stove, so that on Sabbath days in winter the howling blasts without must sometimes have almost raised the hair upon the heads of the worshippers. Could we have looked in upon the assembly, we should have seen the congregation seated upon benches without backs, save only a few of the wealthier or more aristocratic members of the flock who were the owners of separate pews, square box-like

structures, built at their own expense by permission of the society; and the deacons, who occupied a bench by themselves, facing the rest of the audience, close under the pulpit, the better to receive the more "perpendicular droppings of the word."

The minister, Rev. Robert Ross, a graduate of Princeton College, New Jersey, though born in this country, was of Irish parentage. In person he was about six feet high and well proportioned. His usual attire was a black suit, with wig, cocked hat, ruffled shirt, knee breeches and white-topped boots. Beside attending to his parochial duties, Mr. Ross found some time to devote to literary labor. Among his published works were a Latin grammar, a spelling book and sundry sermons in pamphlet form, among them one of a controversial nature, bearing testimony against the "enthusiasm and delusion," as he termed it, "of the Baptists in this Society." Another sermon of his, preached about the commencement of the war and afterward printed, was from the text, "For the divisions of Reuben there were great searchings of heart," and had reference to the painful state of uncertainty in which many found themselves in regard to their future political action. This uncertainty Mr. Ross endeavored to remove, for he was a strong Whig throughout the Revolution, and in his public services never failed to pray for the success of the cause of independence.

The second church in the place was St. John's Episcopal, which stood on North avenue, about a quarter of a mile west of the Congregational meeting house, near the corner of a street called Church Lane. It was a small frame building with a steeple surmounted by a weathercock, and was opened for service in 1749, though not finished until the year 1793, when it was consecrated by Bishop Seabury. This church, which in 1801 removed to within our present city limits, was one hundred years ago under the pastoral care of Rev. John Seyre, a missionary of the Church of England, residing in Fairfield, who preached here on alternate Sabbaths. Mr. Sayre very naturally was an ardent royalist, and always read the prayer for the King and Parliament of England until the temper of the times became such as to render it imprudent for him to do so, when, unwilling to mutilate the church service, he omitted it altogether. After the burning of Fairfield

in 1779 and the departure of Mr. Sayre from the colony, his place was filled by Philo Shelton, whose name is known and honored in the annals of the Episcopal Church. Mr. Shelton at first officiated as a lay reader but was afterward admitted to Priest's Orders by Bishop Seabury.

The only other denomination represented in Stratfield at the time of the Revolution was the Baptist, whose little house of worship, built in the year 1770, was a mile or two north of the other two churches, on the same site as the present Stratfield Baptist Church. It was square in form, without steeple or bell, unpainted as to its exterior, and roughly plastered within. Rev. Benjamin Coles, who afterward became a chaplain in the Continental army, was the pastor in 1770. Through the war the society was without a settled pastor until the year 1782, when Rev. Seth Higby accepted a call to the office.

Stratfield possessed at this time one military company, the Stratfield Train Band, which, for more than seventy years before the revolution, used to drill on the village parade ground, a tract of common still uninclosed, a short distance this side of Mountain Grove Cemetery. Prior to the year 1703 such of the inhabitants of the place as bore arms mustered with the Stratford company. One of the earlier officers of this Train Band was Captain John Sherwood, who in the year 1751, founded the Baptist church just mentioned and became its first elder. The late Deacon David Sherwood was his grandson, and used to tell this story in illustration of his ancestor's uncommon physical strength.

On a certain training day, among the spectators present was a party of Indians from the reservation on Golden Hill, who had been behaving rather insolently, and one of them, a burly, athletic fellow, finally challenged the whites to choose their best man, and he would defeat him in a wrestling match. None of the spectators, sturdy farmers though they were, felt able to cope with the Indian athlete, whose muscular frame plainly showed him to be a very formidable antagonist; yet all felt it to be important that his challenge should be accepted, and that he should be defeated, for the sake of the effect upon the other savages. After some deliberation it was decided that Capt. Sherwood was the only man capable of vanquishing him, but doubts were expressed

whether he would be willing to engage in a wrestling match now that he had become so active in religious matters. A deputation came to him as he was drilling his men upon the parade ground, and after hearing their story he briefly answered that his present duty was to drill his company, but that afterward he would attend to the matter. Accordingly when the parade was over and he had laid aside his regimentals, he approached the Indian champion, who was naked to the waist and shining with grease, so that it would have been difficult for another man to lay hold of him. But, bringing his right hand down upon the shoulder of the astonished savage, Elder Sherwood crumpled it up in his vise-like grasp, and then throwing his left arm around him he gave him such a hug and mighty fall as to leave him almost senseless upon the field, while the air rung with the plaudits of the spectators.

On week days, and in the evening when the work of the day was done, the men of Stratfield used to meet at the tavern kept by John Nichols to talk politics, or discuss the news of the day as obtained from some passing traveler, or read aloud from the columns of the Connecticut Johnnal and Post Boy, a weekly newspaper published in New Haven. This tavern may still be seen on the western side of the parade ground, not far from the cemetery. It is a building of antique style, but in such good repair that it can hardly look a day older than when Washington lodged within its walls, and if preserved from fire and from the spirit of modern improvement, it bids fair to withstand the storms of still another century.

Political debate used sometimes to run high within its walls, as for instance on a certain evening when among the company present were Rev. Mr. Ross, and the village blacksmith, Nathan Bangs, whose two sons, Nathan and Heman, afterward rose to such eminence in the Methodist denomination. Some doubts having been expressed as to whether the people of New England were prepared to make the sacrifices necessary to ensure their country's independence, the sturdy blacksmith arose, and with flashing eye and a glowing countenance, proclaimed that for his part, he would not only be willing to shed his blood, but to endure the pains of perdition eternally, if by such a sacrifice he could set America free.

"It is a good thing to be zealous, brother Bangs, but not too



zealous" replied Parson Ross, who was perhaps a little scandalized at the vehemence of his parishioner, and calling for his hat the reverend gentleman took his departure.

Beside the Stratfield Train Band several other military companies and detachments were raised here during the revolution. One of these was a company called the Householders, made up entirely of elderly men and designed for home defense. It was organized August 13, 1776, with the following officers: Captain, Hezekiah Hubbell; Lieutenants, James Hamilton and Stephen Burroughs; Clerk, Joseph Strong, and was not disbanded until the close of the war.

Another company was the guard of about twenty-five men stationed on Stephen Burroughs' wharf at the foot of State street. At that time Burroughs' wharf was the only landing place for shipping in this harbor below the present Berkshire Bridge. Above the site of this bridge the depth of water used to be much greater than at present, so much so that vessels designed for the foreign trade were built and launched where now a skiff could scarcely float. The design of this guard was to break up contraband traffic with the enemy, to hinder the tories of Newtown and vicinity from communicating freely with their brethren on Long Island, and to protect the place from sudden attacks by marauding parties from over the Sound. It was organized in January, 1777, with Lieutenant Aaron Hawley for commanding officer, and did good service, capturing not a few small craft, and protecting the settlement from the vengeance of sundry exiled tories who had threatened to return in force and burn the houses over the heads of their inhabitants.

There were also during the war several detachments enlisted in Stratfield for service at a distance. One of these took part in Arnold's expedition against Canada, and before its departure for the scene of action, was mustered in the door yard of Rev. Mr. Ross, where all knelt down while the clergyman invoked the divine blessing upon them and their enterprise.

In August, 1776, the Stratfield Train Band joined Washington's army in New York for a brief term of service. It was attached to Silliman's Connecticut brigade, and was officered by Captain Thaddeus Bennett and Lieutenants Edward Burroughs and



Josiah Lacey. Suffering much from sickness—from the effects of which Lieut. Burroughs and Private Ichabod French died, and sundry others were obliged to be discharged as unfit for service—this company narrowly escaped capture with its brigade when New York was evacuated by Washington; the order for retreat not having been received in time. It took part in the battle of White Plains, and soon afterward was mustered out, its term of enlistment having expired. A few months after their discharge, Josiah Lacey raised a company for the Continental army, and was commissioned as its captain. Its term of service was three years and it formed a part of Col. Philip Bradley's regiment in Huntington's brigade. With the exception of parties called out hastily in sudden emergencies and as speedily disbanded when the danger was over, the foregoing were probably all the military companies recruited in Stratfield during the revolution.

In the early part of the year 1777, great suffering was caused in Stratfield by the terrible scourge of small-pox, introduced by a party of exchanged prisoners, who had been landed at Stratford Point under a flag of truce. The horror of this complaint can be but faintly conceived by us at the present day. Vaccination was unknown, and those who had contracted the disease were shunned even by their friends and nearest neighbors. People were afraid to travel upon the highway past the dwellings where the red flag showed the presence of the dreaded infection. The guard at the harbor forsook their posts, business was suspended, and yet in spite of all precautions, the number sick at one time in Stratford township was estimated at six hundred persons.

In May, 1777, Timothy Wheeler and twelve other residents of Stratfield petitioned the Legislature for relief, and a few weeks later another petition was signed by Rev. Robert Ross and twenty-one others. In this it was stated that the condition of affairs had become insupportable; that the people were desperate, and even threatened to pull down the infected houses and shoot the sufferers, if the plague could be stayed in no other way.

By direction of the Legislature, General Silliman of Fairfield, took the matter in hand, and by the use of vigorous sanitary measures, (though hardly such extreme ones as the petitioners threatened,) the ravages of the disease were finally checked.



During the whole war the people of this place, in common with those of other towns along the coast, were exposed to constant alarms, occasioned by real or anticipated attempts of the enemy to land and burn their dwellings and plunder their property. The British fleet having control of Long Island Sound, and most of the able bodied men being absent in the Continental army, every strange sail approaching the shore was viewed with apprehension and its movements carefully watched. The first attempt of the kind was unsuccessful. In March, 1777, seven British vessels anchored off Mill River, (now Southport,) and twelve or fourteen boat loads of men tried to effect a landing, but were repulsed by the militia on shore, among whom was a company from Stratfield, commanded by Captain Abijah Sterling and Lieutenant Nathan Seeley.

Six weeks later, April 25th, 1777, a fleet of twenty-six sail appeared at Compo Point and landed a force of two thousand men, commanded by the infamous Tryon, the tory Governor of New Their destination was Danbury, where there was a depot of military stores belonging to the Continental army, and one of their guides was a tory named Benedict, from this place. At Redding Ridge on the following morning, Tryon's light horse wounded and captured a young American, Lambert Lockwood by name, who was the bearer of a letter from Colonel Cook, the officer in command at Danbury, to General Silliman of Fairfield. The messenger doubtless owed his life solely to the fact that he was recognized by Tryon, to whom he had rendered some assistance several years before, when the Governor's carriage had broken down in passing through Norwalk. After the Revolution, Mr. Lockwood removed to Bridgeport and lived here for many years, a successful merchant, a leading member of the Congregational Church, and a prominent man in local affairs generally.

The story of the raid upon Danbury has often been told, but perhaps nowhere so graphically as in the history of our townsman, Mr. Hollister. As we read the narrative, the present recedes, and our indignation kindles at the utterly unprovoked battering of the church at Redding Ridge by Tryon's artillery, as if the scene were enacted before our eyes. We seem to see before us



the column of red coats slowly descending the hill at Bethel; the sudden apparition of a mounted man upon the opposite summit, and to bear his stentorian order: "Halt! the whole universe—break off into kingdoms!"

We note the pause of the British, the indecision of their officers, their cautious advance and their subsequent chagrin, when they find the mysterious stranger to be only a plain farmer, mounted upon one of his plow horses, but now safely beyond their reach; and the forces to whom he was issuing such lofty commands, purely imaginary.

Danbury, evacuated by its little garrison, fell an easy prey to the invader, and not only military supplies, but stores, churches and dwelling houses—save only those belonging to the tories, conspicuously designated by a white cross upon the lintel—were given to the torch, while the soldiery indulged in drunken carousals. Though most of the young and more able-bodied men of the county were absent in camp with Washington, the glowing midnight sky above the village served as a beacon light for the companies of militia reserves, who from every town as far east as New Haven were hurrying to the spot.

At dawn of day, Tryon hastily evacuated Danbury, and his movements at first were such as to cause doubt whether he intended returning to his ships at Westport, or crossing the country to the North River. He was pursued by General Wooster of Stratford, who rode at the head of a party of two hundred men from this vicinity, and we can see the veteran turning for a moment toward his followers to rally them for another charge upon the foe, and crying, "Come on my men; these are but random shots," when a bullet more truly aimed brings his gray hairs to the dust.

Meanwhile, on the summit of one of the Ridgefield hills, Benedict Arnold and Silliman have built a rude barricade of ox-carts, logs and earth, and with four or five hundred men planted themselves directly across Tryon's path. It is well for Tryon that the American force is so slender—not one-fifth of his own. When at length, outflanked and outnumbered, the Americans are, after a stubborn resistance, forced to fall back, Arnold is the last to give ground, and receives the fire of a whole platoon of British soldiery. His horse is shot under him, but waiting until the soldier

who has advanced to despatch him with the bayonet is within a few paces, Arnold shoots him with a pistol and then makes his escape. After burying their dead, the British slept upon their arms at Ridgefield, and next morning, having set fire to the church and four dwelling houses, resumed their march, harrassed all the way, as on the retreat from Concord, by an irregular fire from behind stone walls and fences. Arrived at the Saugatuck River, they find Arnold and Silliman, reinforced by troops from New Haven, again before them, in possession of the only bridge, and posted along the opposite bank of the stream for two miles. Not caring to risk another assault upon the foe whose courage they had proved at Ridgefield, Tryon's wearied and dispirited soldiers narrowly escaped being cut off and captured, by fording the Sangatuck a mile still higher up, and running at full speed to the shore. Fresh troops were landed from the fleet to cover their embarkation, and when at length they reached the ships, many fell exhausted and panting upon the decks.

In the final charge upon the retreating foe, Arnold again had a horse shot under him. The loss of the British in this affair was thought to be two hundred men; that of the Americans was about sixty, including several officers of distinction, notably Major-General Wooster, a native and resident of Stratford, a graduate of Yale College and a veteran of the French and Indian wars. Benedict Arnold, who won much glory upon this occasion, was present only by accident, his journey to Philadelphia having been interrupted by the landing of the British. For his gallantry, Congress promoted him to the rank of Major-General and voted him a horse. A monument was also voted to General Wooster, but it was never creeted.

Two years after the raid upon Danbury, in the month of July, 1779, Tryon made another descent upon the defenceless towns of the Connecticut coast. With an imposing force of forty-eight vessels and about three thousand soldiers, he first pillaged New Haven and then set sail for Fairfield. The weather was foggy, so that the approach of the fleet was not perceived on shore until it came to anchor off the town. Then, of course, an alarm was raised, bells were rung, guns fired and expresses despatched to Stratfield, Stratford, Milford and all the neighboring towns for

such aid as could be afforded. The British column disembarked on the western shore of the town, at a place called Kenzie's Point, and marched up the beach until opposite the Court House, severely galled the while by the artillery fire from a little fort on Grovers' Hill, overlooking Black Rock Harbor, which was held that day by Lieutenant Isaac Jarvis, with a force of only twenty-three men. Meanwhile the village militia company had formed on the green, and by a lively musketry fire and several charges of round shot and grape, kept the invaders in check for a short time, when they were forced to retreat to Holland Heights, leaving the town in full possession of the British. During the next twenty-four hours every house in the village, whether the property of whig or tory, was plundered from cellar to roof-tree, and everything that could not be carried off was broken or destroyed. Several inoffensive citizens were killed, and the handful of women and children who remained in the place, though not treated with actual violence, were exposed to indignity and insult. The few protections granted by Tryon were disregarded by his men, and when shown were rudely snatched away and torn in pieces. Toward nightfall the town was set on fire by Tryon's orders. A vivid picture of the scene is given by Rev. Dr. Dwight, afterward a resident of Greenfield Hill, who thus describes it:

"While the town was in flames a thunder storm overspread the heavens, just as night came on. The conflagration of near two hundred houses illumined the earth, the skirts of the clouds and the waves of the Sound with an union of gloom and grandeur, at once awful and magnificent. At intervals the lightning blazed with a livid and awful splendor. The thunder rolled above; beneath, the roaring of the fires filled up the interval with a deep and hollow sound. Add to this the sharp sound of muskets occasionally discharged, the groans here and there of the wounded and dying, and the shouts of triumph; then place before your eyes crowds of the miserable sufferers, mingled with bodies of the militia, taking from the neighboring hills a farewell prospect of their property and their dwellings, their happiness and their hopes, and you will form a just but imperfect picture of the burning of Fair-field."



Among those most active in carrying the torch were a number of tory refugees, who had accompanied Tryon upon this expedition. Besides dwelling houses, stores, etc., the court house, jail, school house and two churches were destroyed; Mr. Sayre, the Episcopal missionary for Fairfield and Stratfield, pleading in vain with Tryon to spare any portion of the town. Though a royalist, Mr. Sayre's own house and library were burned. He left the place with the British fleet and never returned. Mindful of former experiences, Tryon did not attempt any movement inland upon this occasion, but re-embarked before a sufficient force of Americans could be collected to offer him battle.

Throughout the whole revolution, the people of our shore towns not only had to suffer from actual invasion and the destruction of their property by organized bodies of troops, but also from marauding attacks by small parties of tories and refugees from Long Island. On one occasion a whole congregation was surprised at Darien while engaged in worship upon the Sabbath, and after being plundered of every article of value, the Rev. Moses Mather, D. D., with his deacons and the male members of his church, fifty in number, went that Suuday on a sailing party to Long Island; from whence they were all subsequently transferred to a British prison in New York. Sometimes the attack was made at night; as was the case in May, 1779, when General Silliman's house on Holland Heights was broken into by a party headed by one Glover, a Newtown tory, who had been employed as carpenter by the General, and was consequently familiar with the premises. General Silliman's gun missed fire and he and his eldest son were both seized, hurried to the water's edge and forced to embark for Long Island. This successful raid of the tories of course occasioned some excitement here, and as the Americans held no officer of rank who could be exchanged for Gen. Silliman, it was decided to attempt to kidnap Judge Thomas Jones of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, a leading tory, whose residence was at Fort Neck on Hempstead Plain, Long Island. For this purpose a party of twenty-five volunteers, commanded by Capt. David Hawley, set out from this harbor one evening in November, 1779. Landing at Stony Brook, they concealed their boats in the bushes, and after a toilsome night march

over by-roads and through the woods, reached their destination just forty-eight hours from the time they started.

There was a ball at the residence of Judge Jones that evening, and no one will wonder that the old gentleman was reluctant to leave the festive scene, with its music and pleasant company, for a fifty-mile tramp on a frosty night through woods and swamps, with the prospect of a prison at the end of the route, but his visitors would take no denial. On their way back, the party passing near the camp of a royal regiment, the Judge coughed loudly to attract the attention of the sentinels; nor would be silent until Captain Hawley threatened him with instant death. was a severe one, and several members of the party straggled, through fatigue, and were captured by the enemy's light horse; but the main body reached their boats and crossed in safety to Black Rock with their prisoner. Invited to dine with Mrs. Silliman, Judge Jones did not display the urbanity which under other circumstances he might have manifested, but, it is painful to state, was reserved and sullen in his demeanor. He was ordered to Middletown for confinement, but after a few months was exchanged for General Silliman.

Brief mention ought to be made here of two successful raids planned and executed upon the tories of Long Island by Major Benjamin Tallmadge, in November, 1780, and October, 1781. the first of these expeditions Major Tallmadge crossed the Sound from Fairfield, and marching across Long Island to the south shore, assaulted and captured Fort St. George with its artillery, colors and garrison, and a very large quantity of imported stores, including the cargo of a vessel anchored near by. For lack of transportation the greater part of the booty was destroyed, but perhaps to save the feelings of the women of Connecticut at such waste, a quantity of valuable dry goods was made into packs and brought off upon the shoulders of fifty of the prisoners, who were pinioned two and two, and obliged to do the duty of beasts of burden. The whole party, prisoners, dry goods and all, landed safely at Fairfield beach, and for the next few weeks Major Tallmadge was universally acknowledged, especially by the ladies, to be the greatest man in the American army. In the second expedition Tallmadge was again successful. He sailed



from Sangatuck river with one hundred and fifty Continental troops, captured a small fort, eight miles east of Lloyd's Neck, and returned to Fairfield next morning, bringing with him the colors of the fort, twenty prisoners, seventy muskets and a small brass cannon. For this exploit he was thanked by Washington in general orders. Among the soldiers who served under Major Tallmadge was Stephen Hull, who was one of the party that conducted the unfortunate Major Andre from the place where he was apprehended to Washington's headquarters. After the war Mr. Hull settled in Bridgeport, where he built a house on the corner of Main and Wall streets, on the site of the building now owned and occupied by the Connecticut National Bank.

Our record of revolutionary incidents would be incomplete without some reference to the services of two naval officers, Captain David Hawley of Stratfield, and Captain Samuel Smedley of Fairfield.

Early in the war Captain Hawley sailed to the West Indies for a cargo of gunpowder, which upon his return, was divided between the towns of Stratford and Fairfield, a part of it being stored for a time in Nichols' tavern on North avenue. In March, 1776, he sailed again from Stratford in command of a privateer sloop, but was captured when four days out by the British manof-war Bellona. Large inducements were offered him by his captors to change his allegiance and act as pilot to the British fleet, but these were firmly declined. He was taken to Halifax. but after a captivity of only two weeks made his escape with eight companions in a small boat, and at length found his way back to Connecticut. In August, 1776, Capt. Hawley was commissioned by the Legislature to raise a naval detachment for service upon Lake Champlain, and a few months later he took part in the disastrous action fought upon this lake between the British and American flotillas. After this affair Long Island Sound was his cruising ground, and besides capturing Judge Jones, we find him in May, 1777, and again in August of the same year, bringing a number of prizes into Black Rock harbor. After the war Capt. Hawley resided in Bridgeport until his death in 1807. He built on the corner of Water and Gilbert streets the first brick house erected within the city limits.

Capt. Samuel Smedley sailed upon the Atlantic as commander of the brig Defense, perhaps the most successful vessel in the Colonial Navy. He captured many prizes, among them the British ship Cyrus, mounting eighteen guns, and laden with a cargo that sold for about £20,000, one of the most valuable captures made during the revolution. After the war, Capt. Smedley was for many years Collector of Customs for this district, residing and having his office in Fairfield.

Let us now dwell for a few moments upon some of the individuals whose history is more or less intimately connected with that of this place. Among these persons is David Mathews, the tory Mayor of New York, who, in June, 1776, was arrested for complicity in a plot for the assassination of General Washington. More than a hundred and fifty tories, many of them persons of wealth and good social position, were concerned in this villainous scheme, which was originated by Governor Tryon, then a refugee upon the British man-of-war Asia. Washington once disposed of, and in the opinion of the conspirators, the dream of independence indulged in by the colonial leaders would be at an end. The royalists of the province would rise in a body, blow up the magazines, and take possession of the fortifications around New York, and welcome the royal forces with open arms, while the colonial troops, confused, disheartened and without a leader, would either disband and return to their homes, or fall an easy prey to their powerful and well disciplined enemy. Thus in course of a few weeks the rebellion would be crushed, the King would have his own again, royalists like Tryon would be recompensed for all their trials from the confiscated estates of enemies of the crown, while noted rebels like Hancock, Samuel Adams and others, would either be compelled to flee the country or else reap the just reward of their treason. Such were the dreams of the conspirators, nor did they omit to take measures to carry them into action. Mayor Mathews, whose country seat was at Flatbush, near the anchorage of the Asia, was the messenger through whom Tryon communicated with the tories in New York, while two of the soldiers at Washington's headquarters had been corrupted and had agreed to abduct or murder their distinguished leader, as might be most convenient.



Just as the plot was ripe for execution it was discovered, and all the principal parties concerned in it save Tryon were arrested and tried before a military commission. Thomas Hickey, a member of Washington's body guard, after a fair trial, was found guilty, and on the 28th day of June, 1776, was hung in the presence of twenty thousand spectators. It was the first military execution of the revolution, and the place where the gallows was erected was a field in what were then the suburbs of New York, adjoining the camp of the brigade of Colonel Huntington of Connecticut. Mayor Mathews and twelve others were sent for safe keeping to Litchfield, Connecticut. Notwithstanding the serious nature of the accusation against him his parole was taken, and he was allowed to reside in the family of Major Moses Seymour, great grandfather of Messrs, Morris W. and Edward W. Seymour of this city. In course of a few months Mathews violated his parole and escaped to the British lines on Long Island, crossing the Sound by night in a small boat which put out from this harbor. His escape led to the stationing of a guard at the harbor's mouth, as already noted.

But as we this day celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of our national existence, a peculiar interest must be felt by every one of us in all that relates to the immortal Declaration of Independence, which has just been read in our hearing, and in the personal history of its signers.

We often hear the statement made that Rev. Dr. Witherspoon of New Jersey, was the only clergyman whose name was affixed to the magna charta of our liberties, but as residents of Bridgeport we ought to know that a member of the Continental Congress and a signer of that instrument was in early life settled here in the work of the Gospel ministry. Dr. Lyman Hall, born at Wallingford in this State in 1724, and a graduate of Yale College in 1747, was on the 27th of September, 1749, ordained to the work of the ministry in Stratfield, and settled over the church in that place, now the First Congregational Church of Bridgeport. The old meeting house on North avenue often re-echoed the sound of his voice, and upon the church records may be seen his autograph, an exact facsimile of that appended to the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Hall remained in Stratfield a little less than two years. He was



dismissed June 18th, 1751, and soon afterward emigrated to Georgia, where he engaged in the practice of medicine. His subsequent honorable career as Member of Congress from Georgia and Governor of that State is well known, and need not be repeated at this time.

Hardly less interesting to us is the fact that the distinguished John Hancock of Massachusetts, President of the Continental Congress, was married to his cousin, Miss Dorothy Quincy, in the village of Fairfield. The marriage ceremony, (as we learn by an interesting historical article contributed by the Rev. Dr. Rankin to the New York Observer,) was performed by Rev. Mr. Eliot, pastor of the Fairfield Congregational Church, and its record, which may still be seen upon the church books, is as follows:

"Hancock,—Quincy.—August 28, 1775. The Hon. John Hancock, Esq., and Miss Dorothy Quincy, both of Boston, were married at Fairfield, pr Andrew Eliot, v. D. M."

Such a distinguished wedding must have made a great sensation in Fairfield and vicinity. Hancock, now a bachelor in his thirtyninth year, was engaging in his manners, of handsome presence and the possessor of a princely fortune, which he spent with profuse liberality. The recent proclamation of General Gage, excepting him by name from all hope of annesty, had only rendered him the dearer to the patriotic inhabitants of New England. In person he was six feet high but slender, and as gentlemen used to dress much more gorgeonsly than at present, his every day costume probably consisted of a powdered wig with queue, surmonnted by a cocked hat, a scarlet coat and waistcoat, richly embroidered with gold lace, ruffled shirt, silken knee breeches and stockings, and low cut shoes ornamented with heavy golden shoe buckles. When he went abroad, particularly on public occasions, he rode in a coach drawn by six beautiful bays, with servants in livery.

His cousin Dorothy was the daughter of Judge Edmund Quincy of Braintree. Massachusetts, and was now a beautiful young woman of twenty-four.

One who knew her many years afterward, when over seventy, describes her as having "a lithe, handsome figure, a pair of laugh-

ing eyes, pure yellow ringlets, in which scarcely a gray hair could be seen, and as sprightly as a young girl."

The Continental Congress which had been in session at Philadelphia, had taken a recess from Angust 1st to September 5th, but Hancock could not return to Boston, which was in the hands of the British. His elegant mansion had been pillaged and defaced by the soldiers and was now occupied by Lord Percy, while a price was set upon the head of its owner by George III, the monarch whose coronation Hancock when a young man witnessed. Hence it was that the wedding took place at Fairfield, where Miss Quincy had been visiting; though owing to the recent death of their aunt, the widow of Thomas Hancock, the wedding was a quiet one. Their married life was happy save for the fact that their only child, a son, died in infancy.

It remains only for us to add to this record of events occurring hereabouts in the revolutionary period some few incidents occurring in the war of 1812. This war, as we all know, was fought mainly upon the ocean and upon the great lakes of our northern frontier. Among the many naval officers who distinguished themselves not the least meritorious was Commodore Isaac Chauncey, a native of Black Rock in this town, who commanded our forces upon Lake Ontario, and whose deeds are recorded in Cooper's Naval History. At most of our seaport towns privateers were fitted out to break up the enemy's commerce upon the ocean. Among all the vessels engaged in this pursuit none was more successful than the "Scourge," hailing from Stratford, and commanded by Captain Nichols, whose home was upon the "Lordship" Farm. So many prizes were taken by the Scourge and either destroyed or sent into neutral ports from her cruising ground, which was upon the North and the Baltic seas, that two English frigates are said to have been specially detailed to capture her, but their efforts were without success. Less fortunate however was Capt. Selby, also from Stratford and the first officer of the Scourge, who undertook to return home in a prize with a portion of the crew whose term of enlistment had expired. Off the coast of Scotland their vessel commenced leaking, and so serious was the danger, that to escape foundering they were compelled to run into a hostile port, and surrender themselves prisoners of war. They were all sent to Dartmoor prison where they remained until peace was declared again.



Not only British commerce but our own suffered from the war, and for a long time the coasting trade of Long Island Sound was almost entirely suspended, owing to the presence of a British fleet off New London and to the activity of several privateers fitted out in the British provinces. One of the most successful of these was a schooner hailing from Liverpool, Nova Scotia, and known as the "Liverpool Packet." This vessel picked up many of our small craft, among them the sloops Minerva, Capt. Baldwin, and Vietress, Capt. Pennoyer, both owned in Bridgeport and running as packets between this place and New York. One afternoon in 1814 she was seen in pursuit of two coasters, a sloop and a schooner, the latter owned in Derby and commanded by Capt. Hart of that place. Both vessels spread every sail in the attempt to escape, but finding their efforts in vain and that their enemy was gaining upon them, they bore up for Bridgeport harbor, which the sloop succeeded in reaching safely, while the schooner grounded on the outer bar. She was soon boarded by a boat's crew from the Nova Scotiaman, who finding their prize immovable, would have set her on fire, but it was before the day of matches, and Captain Hart had taken the precaution to throw overboard the tinder box as soon as his vessel struck. The captors now rummaged cabin and hold, taking whatever suited their fancy, and some of them had even commenced to cut with their sheath knives strips of duck from the sails to mend their canvas trowsers with, when a cannon ball from the shore coming inconveniently near, caused them to tumble precipitately into the boat and return to their own ship, which soon bore away up the Sound. At the next tide the stranded schooner floated again, and was brought up to the dock and discharged her cargo here. The pursuit and capture and subsequent relinquishment of the prize was witnessed by hundreds of excited spectators on shore, and the artillery fire which drove off the privateersman was from the single gun of the Bridgeport Artillery Company, planted in a field now embraced in our beautiful Seaside Park, in fact, as nearly as possible, on the very spot where we are now assembled.

As there were no railroads at that time, and the British had entire control of the Sound, great inconvenience resulted from this practical blockade of our ports. Almost everything brought from New York had to be transported in whale boats, which being of

exceedingly light draught could closely hug the shore, and if pursued put up into some little creek or inlet for safety; but this mode of conveyance was both inconvenient and costly, and it is not surprising that a plan to capture some of the detested privateers was much discussed. It was proposed to put out from Bridgeport harbor with an old sloop gotten up very much on the plan of the celebrated Trojan horse, with two or three venerable fishermen of simple demeanor on deck, and half a hundred well armed athletic young fellows concealed below in the hold. When captured, as they were sure to be, they would lie to very close to their captors, if possible alongside, and then at the proper time would turn the tables in a most surprising manner, capture the British privateer, and bring her into port amid the ringing of bells, the firing of cannon and the applause of the populace. I am told that this remarkable plan would actually have been attempted but for the opposition of Joseph Backus, an attorney and a leading man in the place at that time.

Early in the war a company of State militia, commanded by Lientenants Curtis and Bellamy, was stationed here for a time. Their quarters were in an old bakery on Water street, opposite Union street, on the ground now occupied by the Housatonic Railroad building, and details were sent down daily to mount guard in an earthwork, remains of which may still be seen upon the peninsula known as the "Tongue."

Some time after this company had been ordered elsewhere, probably during the year 1814, the community was startled one afternoon by the sight of two British men-of-war coming to anchor opposite the town. These vessels belonged to the fleet which under the command of Sir Thomas Hardy, the friend and companion of the illustrious Nelson, was blockading Decatur at New London. Their port holes were raised, as if it was intended to shell the town, and by the aid of a spy-glass it could be seen that their decks were swarming with men. People recalled to mind the fate of Fairfield and Norwalk in the revolution, and though the sun went down and darkness came on without the firing of a gun or any attempt being made to land, the excitement on shore was very great and continued to increase throughout the night. No one slept, and the church bells were rung all night

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long. All the money and valuable papers belonging to the Bridgeport Bank were removed into the country for security, and not a few of the people, taking with them their most portable property, sought safety upon the summit of Toilsome hill. course the militia were called out, and made ready to welcome the invaders "with hospitable hands to bloody graves," and Colonel Enoch Foote sent messengers for reinforcements to all the neighboring towns, some of whom responded while others did not. One detachment which came in was headed by a field officer, whose desire for glory or some other emotion, so overcame him that he galloped up and down Main street, almost wild with excitement. "What's the matter, Major?" called out an acquaintance. the enemy are landing; the enemy are landing; I smell British powder!" was the reply. The phrase—I smell British powder was quite a by-word in the place for many a day afterward. The company from Tashua was about twenty-four hours late, and alleged in excuse that the messenger sent by Colonel Foote to summon them, arrived in such a state of exhaustion that he was unable to make known his errand until refreshed by a bowl of bread and milk and a good night's sleep. It was the opinion of some, however, that these bucolic warriors had taken plenty of time to buckle on their armor and bid their families farewell, and then laid the blame of their delay upon the shoulders of the unfortunate messenger.

Morning at length dawned fair and beautiful, but to the great relief of all not a trace of the British ships could be seen. They had sailed during the night, having only anchored here, as was subsequently ascertained, to procure a supply of fresh provisions, which under cover of darkness were purchased from certain parties on shore. It is easy enough now for us to smile at the panic that these ships produced, but if to-day the United States were at war with any foreign power, and several grim-looking iron-clads should unexpectedly appear just outside the lighthouse, is it not extremely probable that some of us might display more agility than heroism, and that the knees of many more would secretly smite together, though they might be slow to confess it?

It seems only fitting, in closing this record, that a single word should be said in grateful recognition of the sacrifices made and



the sufferings endured by the people of Fairfield County during the revolution. It should never be forgotten that the people of this county not only sent forth their young men to serve upon all the battle fields of the war, and to uphold upon the ocean the honor of our flag, the glorious stars and stripes, that they not only saw their sons and brothers perish by hundreds of sickness and privation in the infamous British prison pens of New York, and endured themselves for years after the return of peace all the evils attendant upon burdensome taxation and a depreciated paper currency; but also that beside these experiences, which they shared in common with their brethren of Connecticut and the other colonies, they had the peculiar trial of seeing their sanctuaries desecrated, their homes laid in ashes, and their families reduced from affluence to penury, for no other crime than their devotion to the cause of their country. And though their local history chronicles no great battles fought, or eminent deeds of daring performed, we should remember the long years of watching and waiting through which they passed, years inexpressibly wearisome and filled with all the most bitter hardships of war, which were endured almost without a murmur, that they might transmit the blessing of liberty to us, their descendants, and to those who shall come after us.

And shall we, assembled beneath this canopy of heaven, on this One Hundredth Anniversary of the Independence that they won, refuse to render them the gratitude which is their due? Let us rather in humble dependence upon Almighty God, the God of our fathers, resolve, as the most fitting tribute that we can offer, to imitate their virtues and be faithful to the sacred trusts which they have committed to our hands.



1776. CENTENNIAL 4TH OF JULY. 1876.

The centennial anniversary of this great event was enthusiastically and appropriately celebrated in Bridgeport. The observances were not only pleasing and appropriate in character, but extensive and creditable enough to more than fulfill the expectations of the community, and all the more gratifying that the success was entirely due to popular sentiment and public spirit and not to any aid from drafts upon the public treasury. As a way-mark in our history it seems proper that a somewhat particular account of it should be presented and preserved in this form.

The day was ushered in by the firing of cannon by the Grand Army at 12 o'clock, which was continued all over town until about 100 guns had been fired, followed at the proper time by the sunrise salute. Then came the hurry and bustle of the preparation for the grand procession, which formed according to the published programme and began to move at ten o'clock accompanied by the ringing of the church bells. The chosen route was lined by great crowds of expectant people who had turned out in force to witness the long line as it filed past. The streets were alive with flags and other decorations, many of the private residences and places of business being handsomely trimmed with the national colors arranged in all manner of tasty and beautiful designs, making a continuous line of color that waved in the breeze and showed that the citizens had made up their minds to celebrate this Fourth of July if they never did another. Our space is much too limited to mention the decorations in detail, and we will only say that they were a credit to those who displayed their patriotism by beautifying the line of march, which was as follows:

Down State to Main street, up Main to Fairfield avenue, down Fairfield avenue across the lower bridge, to East Main street, up East Main to East Washington avenue, through East Washington avenue to and around Washington Park, to and across Noble's bridge, to Main street, down Main street



to Golden Hill street, over Golden Hill street to Park avenue, down Park avenue to State street, down State street to Main street, down Main street to Seaside Park and the stand.

The procession was a most creditable one in every particular. The police, the societies, the military and the fire department, made a fine appearance as they marched to the stirring music of the bands and drum corps, followed in carriages by the city anthorities, orators and poet of the day, the clergy and others, and led by the efficient marshals, under the command of chief marshal Sumper, who was fully alive to his duties, and was ably seconded in his work by the gentlemen who acted as his assistants. There was a comic side to the picture, as well, in the fantastics, about whom we suppose we can say nothing more complimentary than that they looked horrible and provoked the most unbounded merriment from the throngs along the line over which they passed. They were well gotten up and not a little credit is due them that they succeeded so admirably in their awful undertaking. The contrast between the old and new style of fire engine was also the cause of much comment as the old "1776" passed along, manned by volunteers, followed by the steam engines which have supplanted old-fashioned machines in active fire duty. The organization was as follows:

Chief of Police, mounted.
Police on foot.
Grand Marshal, Col. S. B. Summer, and Aids.

FIRST DIVISION.
St. Augustine Band.

Battalion of Military; Companies B and E of this city, and K of Stratford, under command of Lieut.-Col. R. B. Fairchild.

Drum Corps of Welch Guards.

Welch Guard.

SECOND DIVISION.

Marshal and Aids.

Martial Music.

Post Elias Howe, No. 3, G. A. R.

Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Drum Corps.

Father Mathew Temperance Society.

St. Mary's Temperance Society.

Veteran Association.

Caledonians.

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THIRD DIVISION.

F. Sailer, Marshal, and Aids.
Drum Corps.
Independent Turners.
Concordia Society.
Germania Society.
Turn Verein.
Other German Organizations.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Patrick Coughlin, Marshal, and Aids.
Sarsfield Band.
Sarsfield Benevolent Association.
St. Patrick's Benevolent Society.
St. James' Benevolent Society.
Drum Corps Cadets.
St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Society.

FIFTH DIVISION.

C. E. Dart, Marshal, and Aids.
 Fire Department.

 Chief Engineer, mounted.
 Assistant Engineers.
 Fire Brigade.

 Butchers' Association, mounted.
 St. George's Society.

SIXTH DIVISION.

E. Parmley, Marshal, and Aids.
Howe Drum Corps.

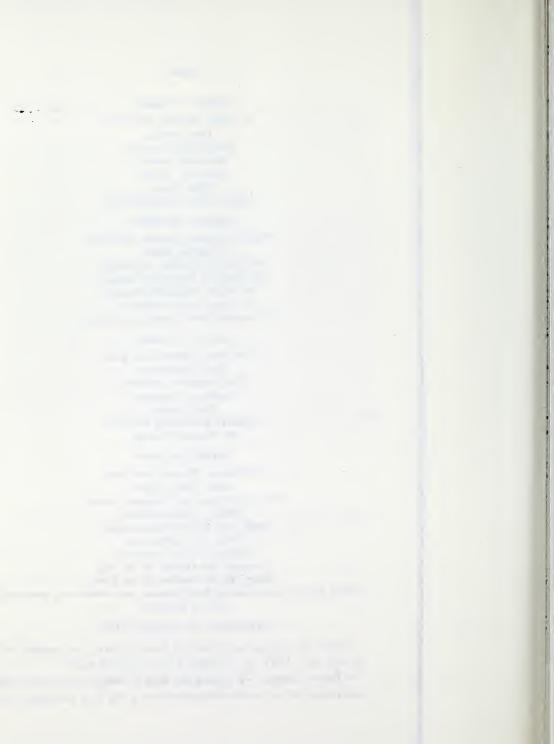
Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council.
Police Commissioners.
Road and Bridge Commissioners.
Other City Authorities.
Members of the Legislature.
President and Orators of the day.
Clergy, Representatives of the Press.

Invited guests, Committee of Arrangements, and citizens on horseback and in carriages.

EXERCISES AT SEASIDE PARK.

When the procession arrived at Scaside Park, the president of the day, Mr. John D. Candee, Esq., arose and said:

"Fellow Citizens—We have met here to celebrate the centennial anniversary of our nation's independence, a day that Americans are



joyfully celebrating, not only from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but in every part of the civilized world wherever they may be, and it is an interesting fact that this glorious anniversary of our independence has been chosen by the oppressed Christians of Eastern Europe as the time to strike the first blow for their deliverance from the rule of the barbarian Turk. We wish them success as success was granted to our fathers in the same great cause.

"In remembrance of the manifold mercies which have been vouchsafed to our fathers and ourselves by Him who rules over the affairs of nations, let us commence these exercises by reverently bowing to our common Father, thanking Him for the mercies of the past and craving His guidance in the future. Rev. Dr. Hopper will lead us in prayer."

Dr. Hopper of the Baptist Church, offered a prayer as follows: "Great and eternal Jehovah whose goings forth are of old, whose dominion is from everlasting to everlasting, on this memorable occasion, we reverently look to Thee for Thy benediction. We acknowledge Thee as the God of nations, by whose power they exist, and by whose favor they accomplish their highest mission. On this centennial anniversary day, fraught with the hallowed memories of our fathers, we come "to thank Thee for the era done, and trust Thee for the opening one." We thank Thee for our noble ancestry, for the grand ideas of liberty, justice and equality, with which they were inspired; for the lofty virtue they displayed in founding and defending a government which should stand before the world as the embodiment of these exalted sentiments. The memory of these men bring no blush to our cheeks to-day. We stand in their shadow and grow strong. Though dead, they still speak, their words ring out clear and beautiful along the century, urging us to guard with greater fidelity the sacred trust committed to our care. We thank Thee that notwithstanding the weakness, ambition, and bad passions of men, our Republic still exists, and over it waves the dear old flag. rich with the emblazonry of heaven,—that the Tree of Liberty which our fathers planted, watered with their tears, and nourished with their blood still thrives; the storms which for a century have beaten upon it, causing it only to strike deeper its roots in the subsoil, and lift higher its branches towards the sun of heaven, until

now thousands from all nationalities in peace and security sit down beneath its grateful shade, as under their own vine and fig tree, with none to molest or to make afraid. As we turn the mile-stone marking a century in our history, may it please Thee, O God, that as citizens, politicians and statesmen, we may more sacredly cherish the spirit and temper of our fathers, that their sublime self-abnegation, unsordid patriotism, and unbending integrity may be ours, that we may perfect what their hands commenced. Like them may we regard it a sufficient honor and remuneration to faithfully serve our own generation, and then fall sweetly on sleep. Bless our entire country, North, South, East and West. As we to-day review the history of the olden times, and the struggles of our sires, that we might have this goodly heritage, may all sectional discord, rancor and prejudice be allayed and we be lifted up into a higher region of national love and harmony. As a vast union of brothers, may we be one in spirit as we hope to be one in destiny. And when, Thou great ruler of nations, another century shall have dawned upon our country, and we now assembled shall have passed away, may it please Thee that our free institutions shall then give no symptoms of weakness or decay, but shall have only increased in strength and beauty with the ages and under the beneficent reign of Christianity may they be perpetuated until the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ. And all praise and honor and thanksgiving shall be Thine forever and ever. Amen.

Then followed

WHITTIER'S CENTENNIAL HYMN.

Our fathers' God! from out whose hand, The centuries fall like grains of sand, We meet to-day, united, free, And loyal to our land and Thee, To thank Thee for the era done, And trust Thee for the opening one.

Here where of old, by Thy design, The fathers spake that word of Thine, Whose echo is the glad refrain Of rended bolt and falling chain, To grace our festal time from all The zones of earth our guests we call.

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Be with us while the New World greets
The Old World thronging all its streets,
Unveiling all the triumphs won
By art or toil beneath the sun;
And unto common good ordain
This rivalship of hand and brain.

Thou who hast here in concord furled The war flags of a gathered world, Beneath our western skies fulfill The Orient's mission of good will, And, freighted with Love's golden fleece, Send back the Argonauts of peace.

For art and labor met in truce, For beauty made the bride of use, We thank Thee, while withal we crave The austere virtues strong to save, The honor proof to place or gold, The manhood never bought or sold!

O! make Thou us, through centuries long, In peace secure, and justice strong; Around our gift of freedom draw
The safeguards of Thy righteous law,
And, cast in some diviner mold
Let the new cycle shame the old!

The President then said: "That grandest, most dignified and noblest document ever penned in behalf of human liberty, the Declaration of Independence, will now be read by Gen. William H. Noble."

After the reading of the Declaration of Independence, the President said: "To maintain that declaration required the utmost exertion of the men and the arms of the Revolution; the men have all passed away, but (holding up an old musket) here is one of the arms. This musket was carried by William Wordin of Bridgeport, during his seven years' service in the war of the Revolution. It is in good order still, and will fire a salute now as well as it would one hundred years ago. It is the only connecting link we have here between this day and the one we celebrate."

Hail Columbia was then played by the bands..

The President then said: "Two years ago last March the



Common Council requested Major William B. Hincks to prepare an historical document descriptive of Bridgeport in the Revolutionary period. Major Hincks has complied with this request and his paper will now be read by Morris B. Beardsley, Esq."

This paper, which precedes this account, so much interested the audience, that on motion of Edward W. Marsh, Esq., they gave Major Hincks an unanimous vote of thanks.

The band then played, and the audience sang "The Star-Spangled Banner."

ADDRESS BY EX-MAYOR P. T. BARNUM.

Mr. President:—The ceremonies of this great Centennial are so lengthy that luckily for your audience my time is limited to eight or ten minutes.

Thirty-three years ago I visited England for the first time. At dinner in Liverpool on the day I landed, an aged English clergyman sitting at my side, upon learning that I was an American, started a conversation concerning the new country of which I was a citizen.

"At best it is but an experiment," he said, "and the short space of sixty-seven years that it has been in existence is no proof of its stability. The evidence of experience is that republics live their brief day and pass away, while monarchies endure." Such language is common in foreign countries. Indeed, our forefathers looked upon self-government as partially an "experiment," and in our present day, when we are startled by instances of dishonesty, corruption and gross injustice in high places, some good men almost despair of the Republic and say we must have a "stronger government." As if any government could be stronger than a government of the people, by the people and for the people, provided the people are intelligent, conscientious and moral!

I have lived about two-thirds of the last century, and have witnessed infinitely more injustice to the masses under monarchical governments than we have ever dreamed of here; and these evils the subjects of royalty had no power to remedy, whereas in Republican America, the people, the voters, the real sovereigns, who in the aggregate, are honest and patriotic, have the power to overthrow corruption and wrong-doing at every election.

Ignorance is most to be feared in a republic. If we have compulsory education we are safe, provided that education includes a thorough study of morals. When men are taught to be honest, not only because it is right, but also because here on the earth in our daily life "honesty is (always) the best policy," that no man can possibly wrong another nor cheat the government without at the same moment, wronging and cheating himself more, that intemperance, extravagance, or excess in any form always contain within themselves the elements of failure, sorrow and disappointment, that goodness, justice and right, always on the contrary produce good results; when the schools, the pulpits and the press teach these doctrines, acquainting men with the laws of the universe and of their own nature, and the importance of observing these laws, (and this is being done more and more every day,) then the republican form of government becomes the most stable, as it certainly is the most beneficent of any ever attempted. Then we will learn and practice the great doctrine of "universal brotherhood," and learn that no wrong can be inflicted on the body politic without injuring every individual member thereof. If our nation is imbued with such principles it will strive as one man to uphold. elevate, purify and perpetuate our then truly "model republic."

No nation in the world has ever made such material progress in a single century as ours, and we are still "marching on" with irresistible force. Let us look to it that the moral and intellectual advancement shall go hand in hand with the material. Therein rest our peace and safety as a nation, and thereon hang the hopes and happiness of a world suffering under kingly rule which necessarily pampers and aggrandizes the royal family, the court and the titled aristocracy, while it degrades and debases the subjects, whose toil and sweat supply the public treasury.

The great American heart beats to-day in unison with these sentiments, for, notwithstanding each political party has been cursed with thieves and swindlers, we hail with hope and joy the fact that the masses, the rank and file, the bone and sinew of both parties demand reform and honest government. With such a public sentiment, "the voice of the people" is indeed "the voice of God."

Old England owes half of her stability to the innate love of country which pervades the breasts of her people. Rome flourished



only so long as its masses gloried in saying "I am a Roman citizen."

To be an American citizen with such purity of government and loftiness of sentiment as this nation is capable of maintaining, is to enjoy the most enviable position under Heaven. We cannot prize this blessing too highly.

If our material progress during the last century has been unexampled, let us remember that no effect can be produced without a cause; hence, if the nation is to prosper, every individual in that nation can aid that prosperity by personal efforts. Our beautiful Bridgeport has made rapid strides in thirty years. If we all work hand in hand like a band of brothers devoted to the development of our immense natural resources, this lovely city, of which we are so justly proud, will rapidly exhibit a progress and popularity to which the past will bear no comparison.

Usually, on celebrating a holiday, we anticipate the pleasure of being present at the next anniversary. But centennial holidays are an exception to this rule. None of us will be here at the second Centennial celebration of our nation's birth. But reasoning from the past, and considering the future possibilities, easily to be developed from the energies of our citizens, and our advantageous position, we can with the eye of faith see that a hundred years hence Bridgeport will be the largest and most beautiful city in Connecticut.

We can imagine that one hundred years from this day our posterity, a quarter million strong, will be gathered in this beautiful Seaside Park, celebrating with joy the second Centennial of the American Republic. The beautiful monument that has just been erected here will be supplemented by others, but let us hope they will commemorate the triumphs of peace instead of war. None of us can reasonably expect to have our names uttered on that occasion, for time swallows up nearly all things, but if any old bookworm, some second Hineks, on the 4th of July, 1976, shall happen to remember having read my name, I hope he will cry ont, "Old Barnum did one good thing anyhow—he originated and named this beautiful 'Seaside Park,' this healthy breathing place on the shore for our two hundred thousand inhabitants!" I shall not object if he adds, "the old fellow seems to have taken a pleasure



in filling up swamps and mud-holes, in laying out new streets, planting trees, and encouraging manufactures and other industries." Of course, if he mentions Barnum at all, he will say he discovered and proved by the highest scientific authority, that ozone abounded in Seaside Park and its vicinity.

One can easily imagine that at an early day Bridgeport will be a popular watering place, and that scores of summer hotels (of which the Wells House at Black Rock is the pioneer) will line our shores from Fairfield Beach to Mills' clam-baking mansion, and eventually to Stratford, for long before the next centennial, the Stratford salt meadows will be thoroughly dyked, drained and filled up, rendering mosquitoes great curiosities in these parts. The principal hotel will probably be called the "Ozone House," then will come the Wheeler, Bishop, Perry, Sherwood, Loomis, Stanton, Mallory, Spooner, Sandford, Calhoun, Wood, Lyon, Alvord, Wordin, Benham, Kiefer, Hawley, and other hotels bearing the names of their chief owners or projectors. Golden Hill, Park and Fairfield avenues, West-State, South-Broad, South-Main and Lafayette streets will be studded with palatial villas; Seaside Park will be environed by mansions and summer cottages, while, setting back to Toilsome Hill and Trumbull, and following the lines of at least three railroads as far east as Stratford and west to Southport, will be the hundreds of huge factories which contribute so largely to the growth and wealth of a city. Railroads will take the people to New York in an hour for a dollar, with return ticket \$1.25. Railroads, express, telegraph, steamboat and gas monopolies with watered stock will cease their extortions. Our wharves will extend west to Black Rock, and that noble harbor will accommodate most of the largest shipping. But the prosperity of Bridgeport can only be accomplished by united energy, liberality and faith in the future. Away with the moneved man who dare not invest a sixpence unless principal and interest are returned to his pocket before he goes to bed. You must sow before you can reap. Sow judiciously, hopefully and prodigally, and see that you carry no misers and skinflints. all together and with a will, and Bridgeport, which is already the most pleasant, healthy and prosperous city in the State, will at the next Centennial, eclipse all others to such a degree as shall aston-



ish and delight the inhabitants thereof, and reflect credit on those who now in this day and generation put their hands manfully to the plow without dreaming of looking back.

The bands played "Yankee Doodle" and then the audience listened to

DR. GEORGE L. PORTER'S ADDRESS.

"Soldiers, from the summits of yonder Pyramids forty centuries are looking on you," said Napoleon, as in their shadows his Frenchmen repulsed the wild charge of the Mamelukes. A single hundred years includes our national experience. Those twice twenty centuries had seen the development, decay and destruction of many dynasties; some five score years have witnessed the experiment of the "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." Those massive stones had grown gray during the ages, when one man, claiming all attributes, exercising all prerogatives, swayed the destinies of millions,—with irresponsible power elevating a captive boy to the second place in the kingdom; condemning nations defeated in battle to slavery or to annihilation.

Barbaric grandeur and opulence emblazoned, as they never may again, imperial pageants, palaces, temples and walled cities. Royalty clutched at divinity. Men were made gods. An age of splendid architectural triumphs and magnificence to the few; it was an age of misery to the many. The learned rejoiced in the wisdom of the Mishna and Gemara of the Talmud, but the nation at large was sunk in ignorance, privations, crimes and vice.

The king was the human pivot, before whose "Divine Right" all other rights must bow.

But the ages, like the dethroned monarch of Babylon, were weighed in the balances and found wanting. In "the last syllable of recorded time," the individual becomes the central figure. The rights of the many is the law of the land.

- "The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
- "And God fulfills himself in many ways
- "Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

With the echo of "the shot heard round the world" was inaugurated a government which announced the equal right of each citizen before the law. Popular education; all honors,



ecclesiastical, political, civil, military, open to every American; absolute non-interference between church and state; the largest civil and religious liberty and toleration are the forces which from 1776 to 1876 have characterized our country, and their results are embodied in a nation—now occupying a continent—whose official head has fittingly proclaimed, remembering that "happy is that people whose God is the Lord," that we should this day render thanks for our many blessings; a nation whose boastful spirit has been chastened by many a sad experience, yet to-day is glad in its tens and hundreds of thousands of happy homes; is endowed with institutions of learning, of religion and of charity; is enriched by commercial and manufacturing and mining enterprises equal to any in the world; is renowned for its sewing machine, India-rubber, telegraph, railroad, and a thousand more useful inventions, by which civilization has been advanced:—a nation, scrupulous of its honor in observing and enforcing foreign treaty obligations; preferring peaceful arbitrament rather than an appeal to arms:—a nation, presenting to mankind the model of a Republic, proud of its glorious founders, thankful for the much already accomplished, hopeful for continued progression, and rejoicing, most of all, in this, that without fear or favor, with liberty without license, worshiping God according to the dictates of conscience, unfettered by class legislation or social ostracism, under our bright skies, by our running waters, every man is a freeman, and becomes, let it be reverently spoken, "the architect of his own fortune."

"Forward, forward, let us range,

At the conclusion of Dr. Porter's address the President said: "There were no more patriotic men in the Revolution than the clergy. In the pulpit and out of it, in the field, and everywhere, they were unceasing in their efforts to further the good cause. It is therefore appropriate that a representative of this class should address us to-day, and I call upon the Rev. Edwin Johnson of the Congregational church, to give us an original poem."

[&]quot;Let the great world spin forever down the ringing grooves of change,

[&]quot;Thro' the shadow of the globe we sweep into the younger day;

[&]quot;Better fifty years of (OUR) life than a cycle of Cathay."



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He responded with an

ODE FOR "THE CENTENNIAL FOURTH."

Ring, mellow bells, from out your airy towers, Rifles rattle, and cannons roar, Bands, melodious pæans pour. Over land and over sea, Voices join in jubilee. Flags, fling out your colors gay, Lending glory to the day. And when night hours hover nigh, Earth, send signals to the sky, Mocking the stars' and comets' blaze, Or the swift lightning where it plays. Fill all the void with pyrotechnic showers. Like a rare century plant, in richest bloom, Doth Freedom deck herself to-day. A continent expands to give her room. Her breath the charmed winds convey, Fragrant, from North to South, from East to West. From lowliest vale to loftiest mountain crest. A frail and tiny seed at first, With patient love its life was nursed. Labor and tears and noble blood, Were spent to give it needful food, Till from the rugged soil it sprung;

Labor and tears and noble blood,
Were spent to give it needful food,
Till from the rugged soil it sprung;
And round it hearts of valor hung,
To guard it well from envious scath.
Then blew the tempest wild with wrath;
Then Tyranny her weapons wielded
To kill the plant by brave hearts shielded.
Oh, long and fierce the ensanguined fight!
But God gave victory to the Right.

And, nourished with a vigor new, The plant of Freedom greater grew; Till far and wide its form was seen, As in a desert, palm-groves green. But should it bear a century flower? Or wither in untimely hour?

Lo, thorns and weeds upon it pressed,
As scorpions in the eagle's nest.
A hateful parasite appeared,
And haughtily its head upreared;
Poisoning the true plant with its breath,
Its life significant alone of death.

Awoke the patriot spirit then; Rallied the ranks of Right again. The sword that long unused had slept, Forth, in the name of justice, leapt; Rebellion, like a robber, slew, And gave the nation life-lease new.

Alas, the multitude of heroes slain,
That Peace, and Law, and Liberty might reign!

Rise on your firm granitic base, Statues of nobleness and grace. To tell us, whensoe'er your forms we see, The price of Peace, and Law, and Liberty.

And now pacific years have won
The victory by war begun.
The wounded bark hath well-nigh closed;
And they who stood in arms opposed
In frien' strife alone are vieing.
They swear a faith and love undying
To Union and their country's laws,
To Peace and Freedom's holy cause.

God bless the land from shore to shore, Nor let us know dissension more!

God's love the precious plant enfold, And when a century new has rolled, May they, who stand where we stand now, Behold it bloomed on every bough; While far abroad its seeds have flown To spring where erst it was unknown: Till universal Freedom rise, And earth reflect the raptured skies.

Ring, mellow bells, from out your airy towers.
Rifles rattle, and cannons roar,
Bands, melodious pæans pour.
Over land and over sea
Voices join in jubilee.
Flags, fling out your colors gay,
Lending glory to the day.
And when night-hours hover nigh,
Earth, send signals to the sky,
Mocking the stars' and comets' blaze,
Or the swift lightning where it plays.
Fill all the void with pyrotechnic showers.



The Committee of Arrangements, through the President, then thanked all who had contributed to the success of the occasion by marching in procession, by singing, by delivering addresses, by decorating their houses and places of business, or in any other manner adding to the interest of the celebration.

On motion of Hon. P. T. Barnum, three cheers were given for the great leader of the armies of the nation during the revolution, George Washington.

The whole audience then sung "America":

"My country, 'tis of thee," etc.

Rev. Dr. Richardson of the Episcopal Church, pronounced the benediction, and the audience dispersed.



CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF EVENTS,

Kn and about Bridgeport.

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CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD.

NOTE.—A record of this nature was published in the Bridgeport Directory of the issues of 1871-2 and 1872-3, which brought it down to May, 1872.

It is thought to be a very useful and proper subject for the Annual Municipal Register of the city, and that there be no break, we commence where the publishers of the Directory left off, and embrace in these pages the period from May, 1872, to 1876.

MAY, 1872.

- May 1. Inauguration of Governor-elect Jewell in New Haven;
 large delegation from Bridgeport.
 Conference of the friends of Woman's Suffrage at house
 of Rev. Olympia Brown in this city.
 - " 2. Winton & Wakeman's store at Berkshire burglarized. Special town meeting to fill vacancies caused by resignation of the elected constables.
 - " 3. The frost still in the ground in many places not exposed to the sun."

The old jail on Broad street being torn down.

Several stables in the vicinity of Park avenue burglarized.

- " 4. The steam fire boat "John Fuller" of New York engaged in pumping out the schooner "Sarah Elizabeth," recently sunk at the Housatonic dock.
- " 5. Fire in barn of Mrs. Nugent on Cullen street.
- " 6. A woman named Catharine Wilson, living on Hurd avenue, dropped dead during the afternoon. Rudolph C. Gottschalk died, aged 41 years.

Unsuccessful attempt to burn a building on Union street.

- May 7. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hall appeared at the Opera House.
 - " 8. Thermometer up to 86° in the shade.
 - John E. Perkins, belonging in Pittsfield, jumped from the 10:30 p. m. express train and was killed, the body found the next morning.
 - " 9. Until 8 or 9 p. m. weather very warm, at which time the wind came up and blew a gale, during which three canal boats were sunk off Black Rock.
 - "10. Visit of Dennis McCarthy, Esq., of Willimantic, President of the State Union of R. C. T. A. B. Societies, during which John Hackett, President St. Mary's T. A. B., was appointed Director for Fairfield County.
 - " 11. Dense fog; the steamers Wyoming and J. B. Schuyler detained in consequence.
 - Special town meeting de Rocky Hill road and renting part of Washington Hall for the use of the Court of Common Pleas.
 - " 12. Rev. Charles Ray Palmer preached at the North church.
 - " 13. Jamestown settled in 1607.
 - Ole Bull and company gave a concert at the Opera House.
 - "14. Meeting of citizens in Washington Hall de memorializing the General Assembly to amend, alter or repeal the city charter.
 - The annual session of the Grand Encampment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows commenced in this city.
 - " 15. Mrs. Andrew Burke died in New York very suddenly, aged 56 years.
 - " 16. Fifteen new members admitted to the Bridgeport Division Sons of Temperance.
 - " 17. Testimonial concert to Mr. S. B. Spinning at Franklin Hall by the Hutchinson Family.
 - "18. A small barn corner Pembroke and Reilly streets, together with two horses and a hog in it burned; loss, \$1,000.
 - " 20. The first thunder shower of the season.
 - "21. The work of rebuilding the Washington Bridge across the Housatonic at Stratford commenced.

- May 24. Samuel Eaton, while unloading lumber at Lyon, Curtis & Co.'s yard, was accidentally killed by a log swinging around and breaking his neck.
 - " 25. Services in honor of decoration day held at the Park Street Congregational Church, the Rev. J. G. Davenport, Pastor.
 - " 26. Elder E. Knight spoke at the railroad depot on the subject, "Liberalism as opposed to Spiritualism."
 - " 27. The "Standard" appeared enlarged by lengthening its columns, the addition being equal to two whole columns.

 The Howe Band made an excursion to New Haven,
 Light House Point, on the steamer Novelty.
 - " 28. A barn in the rear of No. 34 Bank street burned.
 - " 30. Decoration day; the graves of deceased soldiers decorated with flowers by Post 3, G. A. R.,; owing to the rain the exercises were conducted at the Opera House.
 - Webster's clothing store on State street burglarized.
 - " 31. May festival at Washington Hall for the benefit of the A. M. E. Zion Church.
 - Ludwick Galbruner, aged 24 years, while driving, fell dead in his wagon.

JUNE, 1872.

- June 1. The fare on the New York and New Haven Railroad was reduced, the difference between New York and this city being twenty cents.
 - " 2. Rev. Mr. Stone of Dakota Territory, preached at Christ Church, and the Rev. J. H. H. DeMille at Trinity Church.
 - 4 3. Slight fire in Ray's factory.
 Captain Geo. M. Colvocoresses, U. S. N., murdered (it was supposed) on Clinton street while on his way to

take the steamboat.

- " 4. Madame Janauschek, the queen of tragedy, appeared at the Opera House in "Chestney Wold," adapted from Bleak House.
- " 5. Public meeting at the Fairfield Avenue M. E. Church in the interests of the Y. M. C. A.



- June 6. Ulysses S. Grant nominated for President of the United States.
 - " 7. Two burglaries on State street.
 - " 8. The iron steam tug F. G. Fowler, built at Philadelphia, and equipped with the Fowler steering wheel, arrived in this harbor.
 - First open air concert of the Wheeler and Wilson Band at Seaside Park.
 - " 9. The Rev. C. E. Sumner, of Chicago, occupied the North Church pulpit, and the Rev. T. T. Waterman, of Monroe, the South Church pulpit.
 - " 10. A freight car thrown off the track in the tunnel above Newtown on the Housatonic Railroad; no one injured.
 - " 11. Grand concert of Peace Jubilee music at the Opera House by the Bridgeport Choral Society.
 - John Wade, employed at the boiler works, was struck in the eye by a flying chip and his sight destroyed.
 - 12. Hebrew festival of Shebuoth, commemorating the revelation of the commandments on Mount Sinai.
 - A severe thunder shower passed over the city.
 - " 13. Annual communication Doric Lodge No. 33. F. and A. M.
 - Moonlight excursion on the steamer Echo.
 " 14. Floyd B. Wilson, of the State University of Michigan, elocutionist, gave a reading, etc., at Harmonic Hall.
 - The Bridgeport Choral Society went to New Haven to rehearse for the Peace Jubilee.
 - " 15. Eight hundred glasses of soda water sold by one firm during the evening.
 - " 16: The night express trains all heavily loaded with people going to the Peace Jubilee in Boston.
 - " 17. Picnic of the T. B. F. U. S. Club at Iranistan Park. About one hundred Masons of this city went to Birmingham to attend the annual reunion of the Connecticut Veteran Masonic Association.
 - " 18. Mithra Lodge, Knights of Pythias, went to New Haven to join in the annual parade of the Connecticut Lodges. Burr Watkins of Trumbull died, aged 71 years.

- June 20. The steam roller arrived on the steamer Bridgeport, its weight being 16 tons.
 - The steamer Thyra, fitted with the Fowler wheel, took out a party on her trial trip.
 - " 21. The steamer Bridgeport while on her trip to this city, was run into by the ferry boat Southampton and had her cabin stove in.
 - " 22. The Bridgeport Choral Society returned from the Peace Jubilee.
 - Fourteen hundred glasses of soda water were drawn from one fountain this evening.
 - 23. Rev. James K. Lombard, rector of St. Paul's Church, Northampton, preached in St. Paul's of this city.
 - " 24. Levi Hubbell of this city, died in Winsted, aged 89 years.
 - " 25. Dense fog, the steamer Laura detained in consequence of it.
 - " 26. A child fatally burned while pouring kerosene oil on a stove fire, in a building on Fairfield avenue.
 - Bridgeport Typographical Union No. 157, received its charter.
 - " 27. Election of officers of Bridgeport Division, Sons of Temperance.
 - " 28. Slight fire in a tenement on Railroad avenue.
 - " 29. At 2 p. m. the thermometer stood at 95° in the shade.
 - " 30. Very hot, thermometer at 95° and 100°.
 Floral concert by the Sunday school of the Baptist Church.

JULY, 1872.

- July 1. The Rev. Olympia Brown of this city, delivered an address before the New Haven Woman's Suffrage Association.
 - " 2. The thermometer stood at 98° at 2 p. m. John Robinson's circus exhibited in this city. Mrs. Horace Hinsdale died, aged 79 years.
 - " 3. As the train loaded with John Robinson's circus was passing through West Haven, several of the eages were caught by a bridge over the track and badly demolished, a number of the animals escaping.

July 4. Fourth of July; the day celebrated by excursions, picnics, etc.; in the evening the play "All that Glitters is not Gold," given by Miss Ida Vernon supported by local talent.

Severe thunder shower in the afternoon, several trees struck.

- " 5. Picnic of the Iron Moulders' Association at Frye's Grove.
- " 6. Concert at the Opera House by the Yale Glee Club of New Haven.
 - Frank McParland was found dead in the rear of the Atlantic Hotel, from the roof of which he was supposed to have fallen.
- The Rev. Benjamin L. Swan occupied the North Church pulpit.
- " 8. Wessel Brothers' store in E. D. burglarized.
 - Ludwig V. Thiers was thrown from the foot bridge on the railroad bridge, by one Jerry Coffee, who escaped.
- " 9. The bell recently placed in the North church tower and which was unsatisfactory, taken down, and replaced by one some five hundred pounds heavier.
 - A new bell also put up in the Park street church tower, E. D.
- 10. The steam roller made its first appearance on the street.
- Mrs. Ann, wife of Joseph Richardson, died, aged 58
 vears.
- " 12. The steamer Sleepy Hollow arrived in this harbor with about eight hundred excursionists from Elizabeth, N. J.
- " 14. Ferdinand Sikoll, while bathing in the North Bridgeport factory pond, drowned.
 - Rev. Dr. Rockwell of Staten Island, preached in the North church.
- " 15. Annual festival of the Hartford Saengerbund; a large number of Bridgeporters present who expressed themselves well pleased.
- " 16. Pienic of the Young Mechanics' Social Club at Frye's Grove.

- July 16. A fishing party, which went out in the Maggie B., brought home a haul of two or three hundred pounds.
 - " 17. The Sunday schools of the Fairfield Avenue M. E. and the Universalist churches went to Parlor Rock for a picnic.
 - " 18. A remarkably low tide.
 - " 20. Rubber game of ball between the Alerts and a picked nine from the Wheeler and Wilson shops, result in favor of the Alerts, 12 to 4.
 - " 22. Violent rain storm early in the morning; the east end of the railroad bridge washed so badly as to delay trains.
 - Last trip of the steamer J. B. Schuyler to this place.
 - " 23. The principal office of the Western Union Telegraph Company moved from the depot to the Sterling House.
 - " 24. Pequonnock Lodge, No. 4, Odd Fellows, with the Wheeler and Wilson Band, went to Southport for a clam-bake.
 - The Washington Park, Summerfield and Newfield Sunday schools, went on a picnic to Parlor Rock.
 - " 25. Successful trial of the Wilson combined fire engine and hose carriage, constructed by the Bridgeport Manufacturing Company.
 - " 26. Annual meeting of the Soldiers' Monument Association.
 - " 27. The engine George W. Pect arrived for the Housatonic Railroad Company.
 - The City Hotel reopened after being reconstructed and renovated.
 - " 28. Rev. James W. Hubbell, of New Haven, preached in the North church.
 - Slight fire in the Secor sewing machine factory.
 - " 29. Excursion of the Sedgwick Guard to Fort Lee on the steamer Eliza Hancox.
 - Two conflagrations, both discovered and extinguished before they became serious.
 - " 30. The Hon. Jesse Olney, formerly Comptroller of the State, and author of Olney's Geography and National Preceptor, died in Stratford, aged 74 years.

July 31. The steamboat Laura purchased by the Bridgeport
Steamboat Company made her first trip to this city.
There are seventy-five prisoners in the county jail, a
larger number than ever before; of these sixty-one
are men and fourteen women; there are only twelve

AUGUST, 1872.

cells for females.

- August 1. The work of repaving Water street with the McAdam pavement commenced.
 - " 2. Picnic of the Gentlemen's Sons' Association at Frye's Grove.
 - " 3. Concert at the Opera House by the Irish Band, which came to this country to participate in the Peace Jubilee.
 - " 4. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Quintard of Tennessee, preached at Trinity Church.
 - 5. Reunion in this city of the Ninth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers.
 - 6. Of the \$36,000 available funds for the harbor improvements, \$10,000 will be applied for dredging, the contract price for the break-water being \$2.37 per cubic yard.
 - 7. First meeting of the Directors of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., since the consolidation of the N. Y. & N. H. and N. H., H. & Springfield railroads.
 - " 8. An unusually fine auroral display.
 - 9. Trot at the Bridgeport Trotting Park, said to be the best ever over the track, the first prize taken by "Comet," belonging to G. P. Carpenter of Hartford.
 - " 10. The Housatonic Railroad Company had a thousand tons of pig iron on their dock awaiting shipment.
 - " 11. Rev. L. H. Hunt, missionary in the west, preached at the Park Street Congregational Church. One of the warmest days of the season.
 - 4 12. Annual meeting of the Waltersville School District. Annual camp meeting at the Milford Camp Grounds opened.

August 13. A heavy thunder shower passed over the city.

Trial trip (from Norwalk) of the iron steam canal

heat fitted with the Forder wheel and below in give

boat fitted with the Fowler wheel and belonging in this city.

" 14. St. Paul's Sunday school went to Savin Rock on their annual picnic.

Another fine auroral display, in consequence of which the telegraph wires failed to work.

- " 15. The Bridgeport Yacht Club started on their annual cruise to the East.
 - An unknown man who this day shipped on the steamer Bridgeport, died very suddenly from over-exertion, etc.
- " 16. The steam roller commenced work on the Water street pavement.
 - Michael Tracey, while coupling cars on the Naugatuck dock, was so jammed between them that he died in a few hours.
- " 17. Third annual picnic of the Post Elias Howe, G. A. R.
- " 18. Rev. Dr. A. M. Howard of Hartford, occupied the pulpit of the Baptist Church.
- " 19. Picnic of the German Singing Society at Iranistan Park largely attended, and the multitude addressed by Mayor Goodsell.
- " 20. The body of John Foreman, aged 34 years, found hanging from a tree near his boarding place; he was supposed to be suffering from temporary insanity.
- " 21. Annual meeting of Bridgeport School District.
- " 22. The members of the Twelfth and Thirteenth Connecticut Regiments in this city went to the Seaview House, Savin Rock, to attend their annual reunion.
- " 23. Hotly contested game of base ball, between the Bridgeports and Mutuals of Waterbury, at the Trotting Park.
 - At a boat race off the Light House, the race was won by Lewis' sharpie, belonging in this city.
- " 25. The Rev. Dr. Shelton, of Buffalo, N. Y., officiated at St. Paul's Church, E. D.



- August 26. The Fall term of the Prospect street school began.
 - " 27. The Superior Court came in, with Judge Seymour on the bench.
 - " 28. Annual clam bake of the Fat Mens' Association at Gregory's Point.
 - " 29. Heavy rain storm, a deep gully cut in the east end of the railroad bridge, the track being one or two feet under water.

The Bridgeport Yacht Club returned from their cruise.

" 30. The steamer Metis wrecked off Watch Hill, many lives lost.

SEPTEMBER, 1872.

- Sept. 1. Bishop McFarland confirmed upwards of two hundred children at St. Augustine's church.
 - " 2. The Fourth Regiment Connecticut National Guards went into "Camp Jewell" at Gregory's Point, Norwalk, the Sedgwick Guards going down at 8:45 a. m.
 - " 3. A delegation from Mithra Lodge, Knights of Pythias, of this city, accompanied by the Howe Band, started for Providence to join with the other Lodges in a clam bake.

Fire in the japanning room of the Howe Machine Co.

" 4. A Greeley and Brown club organized at Franklin Hall.

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- Very thick fog—the steamer Laura detained in consequence.
- " 6. At a meeting of County Commissioners it was determined to place the license fee for liquor selling at two hundred dollars.
- "S. The thermometer stood at 89° in the shade.
 Thirty-two new members admitted to Fairfield avenue
 M. E. Church.
- " 9. The Lingards appeared in "A Life's Dream," at the Opera House.
 - The Messrs. Joel Fariest and John B. Windsor, proprietors of the steel works at Windsor Locks, took possession of the Bridgeport Steel Works.

- Sept. 10. Meeting of the Selectmen in the old room of the Court of Common Pleas, to consider the granting of licenses, there being one hundred and seventy applications.
 - " 11. The Rev. C. Ray Palmer installed pastor of the North Church.
 - " 12. Edwin Booth appeared at the Opera House as "Hamlet," in the play of that name.
 - " 13. Copious fall of rain.
 - " 14. Bold attempt to burn the block corner of State and Broad streets.
 - Mr. J. B. Studley appeared as Mathias in the romantic psychological drama, entitled "The Bells, or the Polish Jew."
 - " 15. The Rev. A. J. Levy, a converted Jew, preached at the Park Street Congregational Church.
 - " 16. Mrs. Macready appeared at the Opera House as Lady Macbeth.
 - " 17. Annual reunion of the Twenty-second Connecticut Regiment in this city.
 - " 18. The Catholic State Temperance Convention commenced their annual session in this city.
 - Some hundred of the Bridgeport Good Templars made an excursion to Savin Rock by a special train.
 - " 19. Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe gave a reading from her own works at the Opera House.
 - " 21. The business before the City Court consisted of three cases of drunkenness.
 - " 22. The coal barge "Dunderberg" with 750 tons of coal arrived for the Naugatuck Railroad Company.
 - " 23. Mrs. Ellen O'Brien, while walking on the railroad track near Pembroke Lake, struck by a Nangatuck train and so seriously injured that she soon died.
 - " 24. A fire discovered in the planing room of the Howe Machine Company, being the second or third attempt to burn the property.
 - " 25. Heavy thunder shower.



- Sept. 25. Attempt to burn a carpenter's shop on Fairfield avenue.
 - " 26. The Tom Thumb Company appeared at Franklin Hall.
 - " 28. Patrick Handibolt, aged 56 years, and employed by the Housatonic Railroad Company, died very suddenly.
 - " 30. The large lumber yard of Nickerson & Son, E. D., entirely burned; loss, \$60,000.

OCTOBER, 1872.

- Oct. 1. Meeting of the County Commissioners; twenty-six liquor licenses granted to Bridgeport parties by them.
 - " 2. The Jewish New Year or Rash Hashanah began.
 - " 3. Stone & Murray's circus gave two performances in the lot rear of the Howe factory.
 - "

 4. A man by the name of Smith attacked and robbed by a gang of roughs on North avenue, near the railroad track.
 - 3. Joseph Reed, Assistant Engineer Fire Department, while sawing a piece of timber, was struck by it and his jaw broken, several teeth being knocked down his throat.
 - " 7. The portrait of Chief Justice Butler lately painted by Calvin Curtis, Esq., for the Bar, placed in the Superior Court room.
 - George F. Tracey, late Post Master, died, aged 53 years.
 - " 8. Concert by local talent in aid of the Soldiers' Monument and Cemetery Association.
 - Antonio Munoz, aged about 16, while adjusting the rigging, fell to the deck of the brig S. P. Smith, on which he was employed, causing his death in a few hours.
 - " 9. Fire in a printing office on Wall street; considerable damage caused by the water used in putting out the fire.
 - " 10. Incendiary fire discovered and put out in Mayne's drug store, State street.

Oct. 11. Jewish feast of Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement.
A Good Templars' Lodge known as North Star, No.

161, instituted by the colored people.

12. Wm. Baker, aged 51, employed by the Bridgeport Ice Co., while walking on the track near the lumber yard of Lyon & Curtis, struck by a Housatonic train and fatally injured.

 Rev. S. H. Smith of New Haven, preached at the Park Street Congregational Church.

" 14. The Howe Machine Co., having bought Hotchkiss Sons' factory, began to use it, the price paid being upwards of \$100,000.

44 15. George P. Sanborn, a Road and Bridge Commissioner, and formerly connected with the N. Y. & N. H. R. R., died suddenly, aged 62 years.

" 16. Severe storm, the harbor filled with canal boats driven in by it.

" 17. A State School Teachers' Convention commenced in this city with a lecture in the North Church.

" 18. Enthusiastic Grant and Wilson meeting in the Opera House; speeches by Gov. Jewell and the Hon. Wm. P. Frye.

" 19. The Lingards appeared at the Opera House in David Garrick.

" 20. The Rev. Dr. Gilman of New York, preached in the North Church.

" 21. Annual meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association over the Post Office.

Greeley and Brown torch light procession.

" 22. The freight business on the Housatonic Railroad very heavy, trains of twenty-five and thirty cars being sent up daily.

" 23. The Post Master added one hundred new lock boxes to the office in this city.

" 24. The Massasoit Social Club gave their first annual soirce at Franklin Hall.

" 25. John B. Gough delivered his lecture, "Will It Pay," at the Opera House.

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- Oct. 26. The epizootic or "horse disease" made its first appearance in this city.
 - " 27. B. W. Leonard lectured before the Advent Christian Church in Good Templars' Hall.
 - " 28. Exhibition of the new organ in the Presbyterian Church by Loretz, organist of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn.
 - Annual meeting of the Ladies' Bible Society in the North Church parlors.
 - First heavy frost.
 - " 30. Mrs. Horace Greeley died. Joseph Haight of this city, died, aged 51 years.
 - The horse cars prevented from running on account of the epizootic.
 - " 31. The number of persons able to vote at this fall election is five thousand in this city.
 - "The Fakir of Ava and Whiston" exhibited at the Opera House.

NOVEMBER.

- Nov. 1. All Saints' Day, observed at Trinity Church.

 Dedication of the new Pembroke Cemetery at Old

 Mill.
 - 4. Fire at Malley's, caused by the boy lighting the gas touching a bale of cotton with his lighter; loss five hundred to a thousand dollars.
 - 5. Presidential election, the oldest voter in this city being Deacon David Sherwood, aged 94 years.
 - 6. Wm. R. Bunnell died, aged 66 years.

 Heavy rain storm, the water falling in torrents.
 - " 7. Wm. Johnson, aged 23 years, found dead in the powder house of the Union Metallic Cartridge Co.; cause probably a fit.
 - Installation of officers of Pequonnock Lodge, No. 30,
 O. of G. T.
 - Explosion of kerosene street lamp on Lafayette street;
 slight damage.

False alarm of fire from box 37.



- Nov. 10. Bishop Williams confirmed fifteen candidates at Christ Church and seven at St. John's.

 The great fire in Boston.
 - " 11. The steamer Bridgeport hauled off for repairs and the J. B. Schuyler put on in her place.
 - " 12. A "dialect humor" entertainment at Harmonic Hall by Mr. W. S. Andrews, Dialectician.
 Wet, sloppy, and very cold.
 - " 13. Mary Malone, aged one and a half years, fell from a third story window, and escaped without a broken bone, but died in a few days.
 - " 16. The Washington bridge having been rebuilt across the Housatonic river, opened for travel.
 - 7 17. Rev. Geo. H. Griffin of Milford, preached at the South Church.
 - " 18. The colored Jubilee Singers from Fisk University gave a concert at the Opera House.
 - " 19. Post Master Dunham took charge of the Post Office. Madame Rudersdoff and an excellent support appeared in concert at the Opera House.
 - Deacon Agur Beardsley of Bridgeport, died in Easton, aged 81 years.
 - " 20. Mr. Edwin Adams appeared as Enoch Arden, supported by a company from Booth's Theatre.
 - "21. Special town meeting; Selectmen authorized to borrow nine hundred dollars additional for the Washington bridge.
 - Little Nell, the California Diamond, appeared as Fidelia, the Fire Waif.
 - " . 22. Fire in a tenement on Pembroke street, damage slight.
 - " 23. Theodore A. Keeler, Esq., took the oath as Assistant Post Master.
 - " 24. Religious meeting held at the jail every Sunday at 12:30 p. m., under the auspices of the Y. M. C. A.
 - " 25. The great sensational drama of "Across the Continent" presented at the Opera House.
 - Slight fire in building opposite depot, caused by explosion of a bottle of acid.

- Nov. 26. First snow storm of the season.
 - 27. The trains all heavily loaded with thanksgiving passengers; Ward Nichols' train barely escaped going into the open draw.
 - " 28. Thanksgiving Day; united services in the churches.

 Trial of fire engines to see how far they could take water should the mains give out.
 - " 29. Severe storm, the several steamboats detained in consequence.
 - " 30. Alarm of fire from the Presbyterian church; about two hundred dollars damage done.

DECEMBER.

- Dec. 1. Alarm of fire from box 31, caused by a chimney on fire.
 - " 2. The U. S. Congress assembled at Washington.
 - 4. Wendell Phillips delivered his popular lecture "Europe," at the Opera House.

 Organ concert at the Presbyterian church.
 - " 5. Ezra Fisher, employed at the hat factory, fell through the elevator opening and fractured his skull.
 - " 6. Edwin Booth appeared Thursday and this evening as "Richelieu," Shylock in the "Merchant of Venice," and Petrucio in "Katherine and Petrucio."
 - 7. The work of McAdamizing the upper part of Water street finished.
 - 8. The day observed in the Catholic churches as the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary.
 - John C. Blackman died very suddenly, aged 65 years.
 - 9. A bill introduced in the House by Congressman Kellogg, appropriating sixty thousand dollars for improving this harbor.
 - Mrs. Thomas Roonan, while attending a funeral, taken suddenly ill at the grave, and died in a few hours.

Dr. Wm. B. Nash died, aged 87 years.

Dec. 10. The Connecticut Poultry Association held their annual exhibition in New Haven, two of the principal exhibitors being from this city.

Geo. A. Mayne's drug store entirely burned out.

Loss, fourteen hundred dollars.

" 11. Michael Ellis seriously injured at the Howe shop by slipping into a boiling kettle of soda.

Reading by Miss H. D. L. Potter in Harmonie Hall.

" 12. At the poultry exhibition in New Haven, David Sterling and Thomas Munson of this city, received prizes for their birds.

Coldest day—so far—of the season.

" 13. Fine skating; Pembroke Lake crowded with persons enjoying the sport. Promenade concert and ball given by Pequonnock

Lodge, Odd Fellows, in Lyceum Hall.

" 14. Drawings made for the Wells Grand Distribution.

- " 15. Mrs. Wittemeyer, of Philadelphia, spoke in the Fair-field Avenue M. E. Church.
- " 16. The nomination of James E. Dunham for Postmaster confirmed by the Senate.
- " 17. Severe storm; the Schuyler detained in consequence thereof.

Fire in a wooden tenement on Whiting street.

- " 18. Excellent sleighing: everybody enjoying it who could get a sleigh.
- " 19. Dr. Hayes, the Arctic explorer, lectured in the Opera House.

The Sedgwick Guard gave their annual concert and ball.

6 20. Entertainment given by the G. A. R. at their hall.

" 21. Joel C. Peck, Esq., died at his residence, aged 48 years. The Bridgeport Minstrels gave a performance at the Opera House.

" 22. The shortest and coldest day in the past year.
Auniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims.

Concert given by the Sunday school of the Baptist church.



- Dec. 24. Barnum's circus in New York on Fourteenth street burned.
 - " 25. Ida Vernon appeared at the Opera House in "After Dark."
 - Fire in carriage shop on South avenue, loss \$2,000; insured for half that sum.
 - " 26. Very severe snow storm, the thermometer at 5° above zero; the trains all delayed several hours in all directions from here.
 - " 27. Several cases of small pox discovered.
 - " 28. By request Amy Stone appeared in "Cigarette" at the Opera House.
 - The Bridgeport three hours getting through the ice between the light house and her dock.
 - " 29. The last Sunday in the year 1872.
 - 30. Anton Rubenstein and Henry Wienniawski appeared in concert at the Opera House.
 - 31. The Richings-Bernard Concert Company gave a costume concert at the Opera House.
 - During the seven months ending with August the Howe Machine Company made ninety-six thousand machines, averaging during July one hundred and fifty a day, the estimated produce for the year being one hundred and seventy thousand, valued at \$7,500,000.



JANUARY, 1873.

- Jan. 1. "Drew's Panorama of Egypt and the Holy Land" exhibited at the Washington Park M. E. Church.
 - " 2. Steamer Bridgeport detained by a fog, a rain and sudden rise of temperature causing one.
 - L. B. Beckley lectured at Franklin Hall; subject. "Horace Greeley, Living and Dead."
 - " 3. Entertainment given by the Grand Army at their Hall.
 - During the past year forty-three new members were admitted to the Park Street Church.
 - 5. Russell Castle died, aged 78 years.
 - Historical Sketch or History of the Episcopal Church in Bridgeport and vicinity, from A. D. 1724 to 1824, one hundred years, given at St. Paul's church by the rector.
 - 6. The Naugatuck Valley Ice Company of this city commenced cutting ice at Seymour, it being eighteen inches thick.
 - Very remarkable Northern lights.
 Annual meeting of the Protestant Widows' Relief
 Society.
 - 8. Annual meeting of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company.
 - " 9. Very high tide, breaking up the ice in the channel and freeing it.
 - " 10. Pay day for December at several of the factories.
 - Slight fire in a wooden building opposite the railroad depot.
 - Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson gave a reading at Franklin Hall.
 - " 12. The Rev. Dr. Scudder preached at the Fairfield Avenue Methodist church.
 - 4 14. The second January thaw of the month in progress. Annual meetings of the several National Banks in the city.

- Jan. 15. The total number of arrests made by the police in 1872 was one thousand, one hundred and sixtytwo.
 - " 16. Heavy fog; the steamer Bridgeport detained over twenty-four hours by it.
 - Third battalion drill of Companies K, B and E, at the armory of Company E.
 - " 17. Accident to the New Milford special on the Housatonic Road, caused by the track being undermined; only one person injured.
 - " 18. Three Game Cock line tugs with sixteen canal boats loaded with coal, put into the harbor on account of the weather.
 - Victoria Woodhull spoke at the Opera House.
 - " 19. There were nine steamers lying at the dock during the day.
 - " 20. At the annual meeting of the Firemen's Benevolent Association held this night, C. A. Gerdinier was elected president.
 - " 21. There were three hundred tons of pig iron lying on the Housatonic dock waiting shipment.
 - " 22. Ball and musical entertainment at Lyceum Hall for the benefit of the sufferers on the Baltic coast.
 - " 23. Slight snow storm.
 - " 24. The steamer Middlesex of New Haven, obliged to put in on account of the weather, the Bridgeport also detained.
 - The 114th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns celebrated by the Caledonian Club.
 - Deacon David Sherwood died, aged 95 years.
 - " 25. The evening train on the Housatonic Road thrown from the track by a pair of oxen.
 - Mrs. Scott Siddons gave a costume reading at the Opera House.
 - 28. The Bridgeport Ice and Stone Company shipped a cargo of ice to North Carolina by the schooner Palma, the company having laid in a stock of seven thousand tons.

- 29. The trains all delayed on account of the cold, one train using up an hour running between New Haven and this city.
 - Theodore Thomas and his orchestra gave a concert at the Opera House.
- " 30. One of the coldest nights and days for years; at Old Mill Green the thermometer 22° below zero; on Clinton avenue 21°; at 8 a.m., corner Main and Beaver streets, 10° below.

FEBRUARY.

- Feb: 1. Promenade concert and ball given by the honorary members of the Howe Band at Burroughs' Hall.
 - The Rt. Rev. P. N. Lynch, D. D., Bishop of Charleston, S. C., lectured at St. Augustine's Church on the Infallibility of the Church.
 - " 4. Peter Ward, living on Arch street, died very suddenly.
 - 5. The Rev. E. H. Chapin, D. D., of New York, lectured at the Fairfield Avenue M. E. Church.
 - Examination of applicants for the West Point Cadetship at the Atlantic House.
 - "The Constitution of Connecticut, its past, its present and its future," the subject of a lecture given by the Rev. John Anketell at Franklin Hall.
 - 10. The Rev. E. F. Burr lectured at Franklin Hall; subject, "The latest astronomy against the latest Atheism."
 - " 11. Annual ball of Humboldt Lodge, No. 152, United Order of Red Men, at Lyceum Hall.
 - " 12. The work of new planking the lower bridge commenced.
 - 13. Mrs. Pauline Hurd of this city, relict of Asahel Hurd, Esq., died, aged 92 years.
 - " 14. Promenade concert and ball given by the Wheeler & Wilson Band, at Lyceum Hall.
 - Three canal boats, loaded with twenty-five thousand bushels of corn, arrived from New York.
 - About two thousand valentines passed through the Post-office in this city.



- Feb. 16. Leonard Lamb died very suddenly of heart disease.
 - " 18. Annual meeting of the stockholders of the Naugatuck Railroad—the old board of officers reclected.
 - " 20. A new forty horse-power locomotive boiler put into the Bradbury, Goodsell & Co's, works by the Bridgeport Boiler Works.
 - " 21. The Courtland block on Courtland street, nearly consumed by fire, the loss being estimated at one hundred thousand dollars.
 - " 22. The Housatonic trains delayed several hours on account of the snow.

 Washington's birthday.
 - " 24. Special town meeting, at which it was voted to lay a tax of one-and-a-half mills for school and general purposes, and fifteen mills for interest, etc.
 - The Rev. W. H. H. Murray lectured at the Opera House; subject, "My Creed."
 - 25. The drawings in the Wells Lottery resumed.
 Mr. John Hopkins, aged 74 years, died while at the table and apparently in good health.
 - 4 26. Ash Wednesday; the services appropriate to the day celebrated in the Episcopal and Catholic churches.
 - " 27. Concert by the celebrated Boston Quintette Club at the Opera House,
 - " 28. Annual meeting of the stockholders of the Housatonic Railroad Company.

MARCH.

- March

 1. St. David's day—celebrated by the Welsh.

 Scarlet fever very prevalent; two children in one family have died and a third not expected to live.

 The law requiring all mail matter to be weighed went into effect.
 - " 2. The funeral of Henry S. Champion attended from the Baptist Church by about one hundred and fifty of the Masons.
 - At a meeting of the Universalist Society it was determined to continue the Rev. Olympia Brown, the present pastor.

- March 3. Prof. R. Hibbard gave a select reading at the Opera House.
 - "
 4. The Housatonic and Naugatuck trains obliged to run with two engines, on account of the snow.
 - Mrs. C. G. Howard appeared as "Topsey" in the drama of "Uncle Tom's Cabin."
 - 5. Democratic Convention to nominate Congressman from the Fourth District; Hon. Wm. H. Barnum the nominee.
 - " 7. The freighting business very heavy, the steamboats obliged to make extra trips.
 - Thirty-one extra bags of public documents, weighing one thousand, six hundred pounds, were received at the Post Office from the Hon. Wm. H. Barnum; seventy additional bags were sent up the Housatonic and Naugatuck Railroads.
 - 8. Ice on Bank street to the depth of three feet.

 Misses Adelaide Phillips and Camilla Urso with a company gave a concert at the Opera House.
 - " 10. The station house entertained twenty-one lodgers.
 - " 11. Easterly gale, the rain falling in torrents, and those houses exposed suffered from the rain, which drove through the doors and casements.
 - " 12. The 14th day of Adar celebrated by the Hebrews as the great feast of Purim.
 - The Fourth District Republican Convention held at Franklin Hall; Hon. W. T. Minor nominated.
 - " 13. Two schooners sailed with cargoes of pig iron, and one three-masted arrived with coal to go up the Housatonic Road, and another arrived with a cargo of nails for Bridgeport parties.
 - "
 14. The Bridgeport Steamboat Company began to extend
 their north pier out towards the channel one hundred feet.
 - " 15. Closing fair of the Grand Army at Franklin Hall, about six hundred persons in attendance.
 - 16. Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker preached at the Universalist Church.



- March 17. Fire in a two-story wooden building on Willard street, occupied by two families; cause defective flue; loss, \$1,200; insurance, \$1,000.
 - St. Patrick's Day, parade by the several Irish societies.
 - " 18. Concert at the Opera House by eighteen colored students from Hampton University.
 - " 19. The steam tug Game Cock put into the harbor with two canal boats in a sinking condition.
 - Narrow escape of a Housatonic train from a serious accident, by the breaking of a wheel just above North Bridgeport.
 - ' 20. One of the most violent storms known for many years; the steamer Laura and all the eastern boats detained from ten to twelve hours.
 - " 21. The seventh anniversary of Pequonnock Lodge, No. 30, I. O. O. F.; a large number of spectators present, among whom was the Rev. Olympia Brown, who addressed the Lodge.
 - " 24. Organ Concert given by Master Willis Shelton at the Fairfield Avenue M. E. Church, for the benefit of the Ladies' Charitable Society.
 - " 25. The Selectmen made fourteen new voters at a meeting held for that purpose.
 - 26. Annual meeting of the Society of the North Church.
 - " 27. The upper end of the Honsatonic Road again block-aded with snow, the up trains being "stuck."
 - " 28. Republican Convention to nominate town and city officers.
 - Fire in the Perry Honse, Water street, near the Naugatuck railroad shops; damage slight.
 - 29. Fire in barn of Dr. Ohnesorg, Lafayette street; loss \$300, insured for \$200.
 - " 30. The lowest tide for five years.
 - Miss Jennie Rudd, Agent Connecticut Association of Spiritualists, lectured in Lafayette Hall.
 - " 31. The Housatonic railroad again blockaded with snow. .

APRIL, 1873.

- April 1. There were snow banks on the Housatonic road between New Lenox and Pittsfield twenty feet high.
 - " 2. The first thunder shower of the season began at 2

 A. M.
 - Two tug boats and their fleets of canal boats put into the harbor on account of the weather.
 - " 3. Meeting of the Fairfield County Constitutional Reform Association.
 - Charles Nabear, a German, aged 36 years, committed suicide by hanging.
 - 8. The steamer Elm City struck on a rock and sunk off Throgg's Neck; all hands were saved.
 - The steamer Bridgeport driven into Glen Cove harbor on account of the weather.
 - " 10. A four horse load of public documents weighing seven thousand, nine hundred pounds, passed through this city, addressed to the several Congressmen.
 - The Bridgeport Independent Zouaves presented with an elegant silk flag by their lady friends.
 - " 11. Fast Day and Good Friday; appropriate services in the several churches.
 - "
 12. Very severe storm, in Winsted twelve inches of snow fell; along the line of the Housatonic road the drifts were even with the car windows, and in this city several fences, etc., were blown over.
 - " 13. Easter Sunday—special services in many of the churches, some of which were beautifully decorated.
 - " 14. Special town meeting to elect those officers not required to be voted for by ballot.
 - Lent's New York Circus exhibited in this city, the first show of the season.
 - " 16. The Rent Day and the Loan of a Lover rendered at the Opera House by volunteer talent of the city.
 - " 17. In exhuming a body in the Park Avenue Cemetery which had been buried fourteen years it was found to be petrified.



- April 18. The Laura came up on her trip from New York, having just come off the dry dock where she was thoroughly overhauled.
 - " 21. The first load of plaster of the season arrived on the schooner Rose from Nova Scotia.
 - " 22. Barnum's Great Traveling World's Fair gave two exhibitions in this city; thirteen thousand tickets sold at the afternoon performance.
 - " 23. St. George's day, and the birthday of Shakespeare; entertainment, tableaux, etc., given by North Star Lodge, No. 161, I. O. G. T., at Lafayette Hall.
 - 24. The main belt of the Howe Machine Company cut for the third or fourth time by dissatisfied employees.
 - The Union Metallic Cartridge Company began to ship two hundred and fifty tons metal for the Russian Government.
 - " 26. The new hall of Pequonnock Lodge, No. 4. I. O. O. F., in Burroughs' Building, dedicated.
 - " 27. Six car loads, members of the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston, passed through by special train for New York.
 - " 28. A fire broke out in a house on North avenue owned by Thomas Knablin, from a defective fine; loss \$1,200, insured for \$1,000.
 - " 30. The warmest day so far of the season.
 - The Hon. Wm. E. Robinson, Ex-Member of Cougress, lectured at the Opera House, subject, "The Irish Element in America.

MAY, 1873.

- May

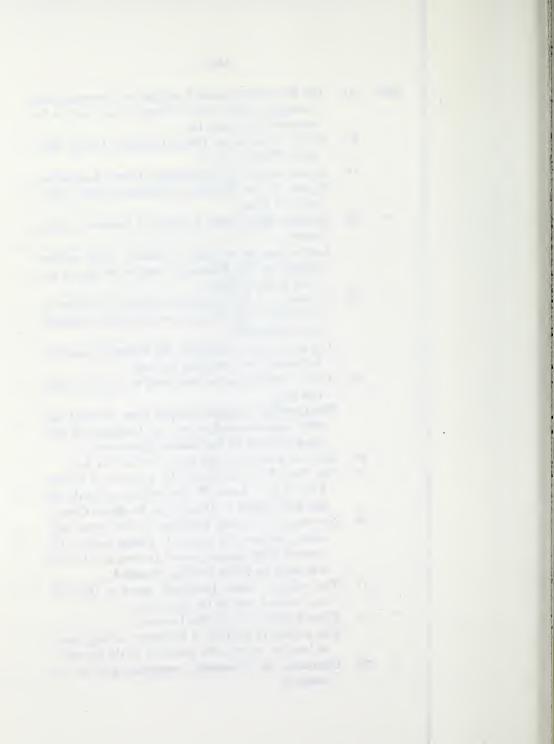
 1. The Howe Machine Company paid their men the back pay due them, amounting to about one hundred thousand dollars.
 - "
 3. Engine No. 34 of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., made the run from New Haven to this city in sixteen minutes; the only passenger was the Hon. Wm. D. Bishop.

, . . .

- May 4. Four thousand people were estimated to have visited Seaside Park.
 - Work resumed by mud dredge removing the outer bur.
 A prisoner named Bumford escaped from the jail on North avenue.
 - " 6. The Police Commissioners received sixty-two applications for positions on the force, there being one vacancy.
 - "
 7. The barque C. E. Jayne, arrived with a cargo of coal direct from Liverpool, the passage taking thirty-six days.
 - John H. Murray's Great Railroad Circus exhibited in the lot at the rear of the Howe factories.
 - "8. Meeting of Veterans at Washington Hall to take action upon proposition to attend the meeting of the various companies in New Haven.
 - 9. Another very severe storm on the Sound, so as to prevent any boats from reaching here.
 - " 10. The Laura detained until 8 A. M. by the storm; the Bridgeport arrived at 9 A. M.
 - " 11. During the past twenty-four hours no less than four alarms of fire were given, all but one false.
 - " 12. The Hon. Charles B. Hubbell, Ex-Mayor of this city, died, aged 84 years.
 - "

 13. The rush for the country in full force, there being one hundred and ten pieces of baggage sent up the Housatonic and Naugatuck roads.
 - " 14. The steamboat freights very heavy, the boats obliged to leave seven hundred bales of rags for Lee, Massachusetts.
 - Generals Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, and Postmaster General Jewell, passed through to attend the reunion of regiments in New Haven.
 - " 15. Reunion of Veterans of late war in New Haven; thirteen hundred railroad tickets sold for New Haven at the depot.
 - " 16. Three male prisoners made, their escape from the North avenue jail.

- May 17. The Post-master received applications for twenty-five thousand postal cards, although none were to be received until June 1st.
 - " 18 Annual visitation at Trinity Church of the Rt. Rev. John Williams, D. D.
 - " 19. Annual meeting of the Bridgeport Choral Association. Captain Abram McNeil, a well-known citizen, died, aged 71 years.
 - " 20. Shooting affray, almost a murder in a saloon on Main street.
 - Another invoice of thirty thousand young salmon shipped up the Housatonic road to be put in the river at New Milford.
 - " 22. An invoice of fifty thousand postal cards received at the office in this city; in two days thirty thousand were disposed of.
 - The new steamer Spitfire for the Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Ferry made her first trip.
 - " 23. Three thousand postal cards sold at the Post Office this day.
 - The Cartridge Company shipped three hundred and fifty cases of cartridges and two hundred and fifty cases of metal for the Russian Government.
 - " 24. Both the Bridgeport and Laura detained by fog.
 - " 25. The Rev. N. E. Marble, D. D., preached at Trinity Church, Rev. James W. Hubbell at the North, and the Rev. Homer S. Dunning at the South Church.
 - " 26. Now time tables went into effect on the several railroads; the new fast express to Boston put on; the up train thirty minutes late at Harlem, all of which was made up before reaching Stamford.
 - " 27. The schooner Jacob Lorrillard owned in this city, run into and sunk in the East River.
 - " 29. Three burglaries on Fairfield avenue. The petition of the City of Bridgeport asking power to buy the water works presented to the Senate.
 - " 30. Decoration day; imposing ceremonies held at the cemetery.



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May 31. Fire in candle factory of Messrs. Crane & Hurd; loss \$1,000, no insurance.

JUNE, 1873.

- June 1. Memorial services at the Park Street Congregational Church, the building very handsomely decorated.
 - 2. The new police force sworn in by Mayor Goodsell.
 - 3. The old brick school house on Washington avenue sold at auction, bringing \$325.
 - Trot at the Trotting Park for a purse of \$100, won by the horse "Belle" belonging in Danbury, and driven by H. P. Warner.
 - " 4. Oliver Pell Secor died at his residence in this city, aged 57 years.
 - " 5. During the present week one firm disposed of nine thousand quarts of strawberries.
 - Steamer Hugh Bolton arrived with a load of stone for the breakwater.
 - " 6. Picnic of the Waltersville School District school at Frye's Grove.
 - The slaughter house on the Huntington Turupike belonging to Gideon Thompson, entirely consumed by fire, the engines being unable to get water within half a mile.
 - " 7. First open air concert of the season given by the Wheeler & Wilson Band at Seaside Park.
 - S. Chief Justice Thomas B. Butler died in Norwalk, aged 66 years.
 - " 10. A tug boat took out of the harbor a fleet of eighteen canal boats and two barges.
 - Special town meeting in Washington Hall; \$18,900 appropriated for the Soldiers' Monument.
 - " 11. The Southern Association of Universalists commenced their annual two days' session at the Universalist Church, the Rev. D. M. Hodge preaching.
 - " 12. About sixty members of Charity Lodge, No. 4, of this city, visited Naomi Lodge, No. 1, of New Haven. Festival of the Willing Workers at Harmonic Hall.



- June 13. The residence of Mrs. Alfred Bishop burglarized.
 - " 14. Concert at Seaside Park by the Howe Band. -
 - " 15. Rose Sunday observed in the Universalist Church.
 - " 16. The new hose cart for Engine No. 5 arrived; cost \$850, and will carry seven hundred feet of hose.
 - Mr. Joseph Seeley, aged 85, while getting in hay, fell from the top of the load, breaking his shoulder and receiving serious internal injuries.
 - " 17. Den Stone's Colossal Circus and Central Park Menagerie gave two performances in this city.
 - " 18. Sixty-one years ago this day, the United States declared war against Great Britain.
 George L. Kunz, a young man, aged 24 years, committed suicide by shooting.
 - " 19. The thermometer 90° in the shade.

 Dr. Buritt discovered a colored burglar in his house.
 - " 20. Picnic of the North Church Sunday school at Parlor Rock.
 - The steamer Isaac P. Smith arrived in the harbor with an excursion from New Haven.
 - " 23. Eighty members of the Bridgeport Scheutzen Verein went to New Britain to attend a two days' shooting festival.
 - " 24. Dion Boucicault's five act comedy, "London Assurance," brought out at the Opera House by home talent.

 Third annual remion of the Connecticut Veteran
 - Masonic Association, under the auspices of St. John's Lodge.
 - " 25. Annual meeting of the Secor Sewing Machine Co.
 - " 26: A camp fire held by Elias Howe, Jr., Post 3, G. A. R.
 - " 27. The last iron rail on the N. Y. & N. H. Railroad removed, the entire track, between New York and New Haven, being now laid with steel rails.
 - 28. Severe thunder shower; several houses injured and trees destroyed.
 - 4 30. Race off the harbor between the steamings Echo and Stetson, resulting in favor of the latter by seventeen feet, three inches.



JULY, 1873.

- July 1. The steamer Laura on her up trip ran into a raft off Blackwell's Island, but escaped without serious injury.
 - The public schools closed for a seven weeks' vacation. Judge S. B. Sumner took possession of the probate office.
 - The schooner H. B. Drew, belonging in this city, struck by lightning and had both masts taken out, off Blackwell's Island.
 - 4. Fourth of July. Picnic of St. Augustine's Church; of the Caledonian Club at Pembroke Grove; excursion to New York by steamer Laura, and around the Lightship by the Bridgeport.
 - " 5. Sixty-third birthday of the Hon. P. T. Barnum. Ball match between the Friendship Social Club and Gentlemen's Sons' Association.
 - " 7. The Selectmen authorized to borrow \$25,000 for current expenses, by special town meeting held at Washington Hall.
 - An unknown man jumped from the steamer Laura on her trip from New York and was drowned.
 - " 10. James Gaffney, a trackman on the N. Y. & N. H. road, struck and killed by the owl train between this city and Stratford.
 - Mr. Roswell Stiles Nichols died, aged 80 years.
 - " 11. Exhibition of the pupils attending the Waltersville District school.
 - " 12. Concert by the Howe Band at Seaside Park.
 - " 13. The boarding house of Ferdinand Tosteh, Gilmore street, burned; one man burned to death.
 - " 16. Concert at Washington Park by the Wheeler and Wilson Band.
 - The members of the First Congregational Sunday school, Waterbury, came down and pieniced at Sherwood's Grove.
 - 4 17. General Tom Thumb started in his yacht, the Maggie
 B., to join the cruise of the Brooklyn Yacht Club;

- July 18. Heavy blow; the waves very high, breaking over the wall at Seaside Park; the steamer Spitfire unable to make her usual trips.
 - " 19. A man named Michael Murphy struck by an incoming train this side of Fairfield and injured so that he died in a few minutes.
 - " 21. The work of excavating for the new St. John's church began.
 - " 23. The Rev. Father Drea of St. Mary's church, died, aged 52 years.
 - The yacht Maggie B of this city, took the first prize of her class in the regatta at New London of the Brooklyn Yacht Club.
 - " 24. The steam tug "Terror" with a fleet of canal boats in tow put in disabled.
 - " 25. Annual meeting of the Bridgeport School District.
 - " 27. Four persons immersed in Yellow Mill pond.
 - " 28. Excursion of the Sedgwick Guard by steamer Twilight to Elm Grove, Staten Island.
 - " 29. Fire in the ferry-boat Spitfire, originating from the felting around the boiler.
 - " 30. Fire in paint store of Coughlin Brothers, Main street, near Elm; loss covered by insurance.
 - " 31. Excursion of the Universalist Church by steamer Isaac P. Smith to Savin Rock.
 - During the month of July sixty thousand postage stamps were cancelled at the Post Office in this city, and about seventy-five thousand postal cards since they first came.

AUGUST, 1873.

- August 1. The Hon. Franklin P. Ambler of Nichols Farms, Trumbull, died, aged 76 years.
 - " 2. Pienic of the Gentlemen's Sons' Association at Iranistan Park.
 - " 3. The Rev. Dr. Shelton of Buffalo, New York, preached at St. Paul's church.

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- August 4. Dedication of the Bridgeport Scheutzen Park at West Stratford.
 - The Doric Lodge and Welch Guards celebrate Emancipation day by a picnic, etc., at Parlor Rock.
 - " 5. Jeremiah Toby, aged 23, drowned while bathing off Seaside Park.
 - 7. The Board of Road and Bridge Commissioners reëlected Mr. Michael Leverty Street Commissioner for the balance of the year or until April 1st.
 - 8. The steamer Isaac P. Smith took out an excursion of six hundred from the Park Street Church to Savin Rock.
 - Christopher Kaughles was accidentally shot through the tongue while handling a pistol.
 - One hundred tons iron ore from the silver steel mines, Roxbury, came down the Housatonic road to be shipped to Germany.
 - " 11. Camp meeting for this district began at the Milford Camp Ground.
 - " 12. Private excursion to Saybrook on the steamer F. G. Fowler.
 - Work commenced by a dredge deepening the water inside the harbor.
 - " 13. The Hon. P. T. Barnum sailed for Europe by the steamer Scotia.
 - At a special city meeting it was voted not to buy the water works—yeas, 323; noes, 353.
 - 14. Severe storm; both the Bridgeport and Laura prevented from making their usual trips.
 - There were twelve steamers and fifty canal boats and barges driven into the harbor for refuge.
 - " 15. Patrick Reilly seriously injured by the large derrick of Ellis & Chatfield.
 - " 16. The sloop yacht, Capt. Stoddard, started on a cruise.
 - " 17. Thomas O'Neil found dead, supposed to have fallen from a fourth story window.
 - " 18. The steamer Twilight took out about seven hundred Bridgeport Zouave excursionists to New London.

- August 19. Regatta off Westport; the boats Dr. Franklin, Americus and Pearl of this city entered.
 - " 21. Reunion in this city of the Ninth, Twelfth and Thirteenth Regiments Connecticut Infantry.
 - Annual meeting Waltersville School District; the old board of officers elected.
 - " 23. The bell made by Jones & Co., Troy, for the new fire alarm tower, arrived; weight, ten thousand pounds.
 - " 25. Waldemere Council, No. 6, O. U. A. M., was instituted at the Grand Army Hall.
 - " 26. The yacht Tiger arrived from Setauket with five hundred blue fish.
 - " 27. Reunion of the seven Connecticut regiments in this city.
 - Excursion of the Methodist Church, Waterbury, to Glen Cove, Long Island, via this city and steamer Twilight; twelve hundred passengers on board.
 - " 28. The new city bell tower on John street raised.
 - " 29. Town meeting to regulate the liquor licenses and fees.
 - " 30. Concert at Seaside Park by the Wheeler and Wilson Band.
 - Average height of thermometer during the month 76.2°; highest (August 3d) 90°; lowest (August 18th) 62°.

SEPTEMBER, 1873.

- Sept. 3. The three masted schooner Idaho arrived from Baltimore with five hundred and thirty-five tons of coal for the Housatonic Railroad, it being the largest cargo ever brought to the city.
 - " 5. The Union Metallic Cartridge Company shipped by steamer Laura one thousand cases of cartridges and five hundred cases of metal to St. Petersburg, for the Russian Government.
 - 8. Dr. Charles Oswald Stockmann, an eminent German physician and formerly of this city, died in New Haven, aged 64 years.

- Sept. 10. The funeral of Joseph Seeley, member Fire Department, attended by the members and ex-members of the Department.
 - " 11. Two hundred tons of Lee marble shipped by means of Ellis' large derrick to Philadelphia.
 - " 12. Regatta off Seaside Park, the winning boats being, 1st, Tiger, 2d, Pearl, both of Bridgeport, 3d, . Avenger of New Haven.
 - Concert by local talent, assisted by the organist,
 Master Willis Shelton, at the Fairfield Avenue
 M. E. Church.
 - " 14. The first frost of the season.
 - " 15. The annual fair of the Fairfield County Agricultural Association opened at Norwalk.
 - " 16. Edgar Wilson, aged 23, while attempting to jump on a freight train in North Bridgeport, thrown under the wheels and injured so that he died in a few minutes.
 - " 18. The corner stone of the new St. John's church laid by Bishop Williams.
 - Regimental parade of the Fourth Regiment, C. N. G., Col. H. W. R. Hoyt in command.
 - " 22. The work of Macadamizing Main street began at the corner of Golden Hill street.
 - P. T. Barnum's Drawing Room Aggregation at the Opera House, afternoon and evening.
 - " 23. One hundred and fifty tons of the Plymouth Granite Company's block (stone) pavement shipped to New York via Naugatuck road and boat.
 - " 25. Race between the sail-boats Pearl and Americus, resulting in favor of the Pearl.
 - " 27. The suit of A. J. Jaques vs. the Horse Railroad Company, on trial before Judge Minor in the Superior Court.
 - " 29. James Eggleton, aged 65, run over and killed by a Housatonic train, near Lyon & Curtis' lumber yard.
 - " 30. The amount of salt imported into this city during the past three months was one million, nine hundred



and ninety-seven thousand, nine hundred and thirty-eight pounds.

Sept. 30. Average height of the thermometer during the month 70°; highest 85°, September 1st; lowest 58.5° on the 13th and 14th.

OCTOBER.

- October 1. The steamer Spitfire made her last trip for the season.

 There were fifty-two sail-boats anchored off the lower bridge for the night.
 - " 2. The Great North American Circus exhibited in the rear of the Howe factory.
 - " 4. The needle department of the Howe factory shut down for an indefinite period.
 - " 5. A man named Sullivan, employed on the new St. John's Church, fell from a scaffolding, striking a window sill, and was severely injured.
 - Vote on the "one capital" question. Yeas, 1,131; noes, 1,503.
 - Philo Hurd and wife celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage.
 - 7. A green lizard nearly seven inches long was taken from the water pipes.

The work of paving Franklin street with cobble stone in progress.

- " S. Mr. Ezra Wheeler, one of the oldest inhabitants, died, aged 88 years.
- " 9. Very high tide; the cellars on Water street all flooded.
- " 10. Over one hundred thousand dollars paid out at Wheeler & Wilson's, it being the monthly pay day.
 - The foot walk on the lower bridge being replanked.
- " 13. Concert at Franklin Hall by North Carolina colored students in aid of Shaw University, Raleigh.
- " 14. The work of repaying the foot of Fairfield avenue with McAdam pavement under way.
- " 15. An eel twenty-three inches long taken from the water pipe near the Sterling House.
- " 16. The steam roller at work on Water street.

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- Oct. 19. Miss E. Annie Hinman lectured at Franklin Hall on "The Proposed Religious Amendment to the Constitution."
 - " 21. The first alarm of fire given on the new fire bell from box 26; slight damage from water.

The Fairfield County East Consociation of Congregational churches met in the North Church chapel.

" 28. The approach to the Naugatuck dock laid with the block pavement of the Plymouth Granite Company, and common cobble stones, in order to test the two kinds of pavement.

Ice formed just north of the city.

" 31. The dredge, Messrs. Beardsley Brothers, commenced work on the mud flats just south of the Naugatuck dock.

Average height of thermometer during month 60.5°; highest, 71.5°; lowest, 44°.

NOVEMBER, 1873.

- Nov. 1. Major William B. Hincks entered upon his duties as Secretary and Treasurer of the Gas Light Company.
 - Fourteenth annual meeting of the Bridgeport Bible Society held at Christ church.
 - " 3. Yellow Mill pond frozen over for the first time this season.

Vote on question of purchasing the water works; whole number of votes, 1,743; yes, 760; no, 983.

- " 4. The work of McAdamizing Main street, from Fair-field avenue to Wall street, commenced.
- 6. The new steam heating apparatus at the Court House put in operation for the first time.
- " 8. During the past week the average attendance at the public schools was two thousand, eight hundred and eighty.

Prof. Pepper gave a very interesting lecture on Spectacular Science.

" 9. Bishop Williams visited St. John's and Christ churches.



- Nov. 10. The schooner Josephine arrived in the harbor in a disabled condition, having been run into twice on her trip from New York.
 - "
 11. The schooner William Allen, with five hundred tons of coal, arrived from Baltimore, the trip being made in six days. The barge Ivy also arrived, with twenty thousand bushels of grain. During the past week, thirty car loads of grain were shipped up the Housatonic and Naugatuck roads from the elevator in this city.
 - " 13. Work on Main street suspended for the season, the street east of the railroad track being McAdamized as far as State street.
 - " 14. Fire in the Crescent Shirt Factory, caused by a defective flue. Insurance \$8,000, which will cover loss.
 - Average school attendance for past week, two thousand, eight hundred and sixty-three; number enrolled who are absent from all schools, estimated at two thousand; this exclusive of those who attend private schools.
 - " 15. Jeremiah Callihan, aged about 35 years, found dead on the flats north of the boiler shops; supposed to have been accidentally drowned.
 - Deacon William E. Brown died of typhoid fever, aged 42 years.
 - Charles Bradlaugh, the eminent English political reformer, lectured at Franklin Hall on "Republicanism in Europe."
 - " 17. Very severe storm of snow, hail and rain, and a strong gale. The barometer fell during the evening to 28.7, and remained at that point during the night.
 - " 18. The steamers all detained by the storm, and the engines obliged to be doubled on the railroads.
 - " 19. Charity, wife of P. T. Barnum, died in New York, aged 65 years.
 - " 21. Average school attendance during week, two thousand, seven hundred and thirty-two; mumber enrolled, three thousand, three hundred and forty-six.

- Nov. 24. The Portchester and Harlem branch of the N. Y., N. H. & H. Railroad opened for public travel.
 - The steamer Bridgeport brought up one thousand, two hundred feet of twelve-inch pipe for the Water Company.
 - 25. A vessel loaded with old rubber arrived in harbor, and the cargo sent up the Housatonic road.
 - Prof. B. G. Northrop of the State Board of Education, lectured at the North Church on his "Recent Observations Abroad."
 - ' 26. The Tomlinson Spring and Axle Company received an order from California for one thousand, four hundred and twenty pairs springs.
 - " 27. Thanksgiving day; remarkably quiet; the morning services in the churches well attended; Pembroke Lake crowded with skaters.
 - " 28. The Union Metallic Cartridge Company at work on an order just received from the Government for two million cartridges, which it will take sixty days to fill.
 - The Water Company received fifty tons more of cast iron pipe from Philadelphia.
 - " 29. Two canal boats loaded with sixteen thousand bushels of grain, arrived in the harbor.
 - Two car loads of machinery were shipped through this city from Ansonia for the Topeka Iron and Steel Works, Topeka, Kansas.
 - " 30. Mr. Isaac Keeler, one of the oldest citizens, died suddenly, aged 84 years.

DECEMBER, 1873.

- Dec. 1. During the past month, thirty-six marriage licenses were issued by the Town Clerk.
 - Eighteen tons of pig lead were brought up since last Friday by steamer Bridgeport for the Cartridge Company.
 - The funeral of Charles H. Marlor, late of Co. II, 17th C. V., attended by the members of Post 3, G. A. R.

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Dec. 3. Four hundred and thirty tramps lodged at the station house during the past month.

"

- The nomination of D. F. Hollister, Esq., as Collector of the Second District of Connecticut sent by the President to the Senate.
- 4. A water pipe burst opposite the Atlantic House, from which an eel weighing four and a half pounds was taken.
 - Severe gale both here and on the lakes; the schooner Clara badly injured by the storm while lying off the harbor.
 - The Housatonic morning passenger train ran into four large rocks weighing about four hundred pounds, which had become loosened near the Hawleyville Tunnel.
 - 5. Two million, two hundred thousand passengers were carried by the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. last year.
 - The average number of pupils attending the public schools daily during the past week was two thousand, six hundred and sixty, membership three thousand, three hundred and forty.
- 8. Mrs. Scott Siddons gave a reading at the Opera House, the building being well filled.

 The nomination of D. F. Hollister confirmed.
- " 9. Mr. Benjamin Edwards died at his residence in this city, aged 70 years.
- " 10. Philip Phillips sang at the Washington Park M. E. church.
- " 11. Prohibition Convention for the Fourth Congressional District held at Franklin Hall.
- " 12. Mr. John McCarthy, aged about 70 years, run over and killed at the Fairfield road crossing by the day freight train, and William Connors run over by the Shore Line express in East Bridgeport.
 - Charity concert at the Opera House by home talent.
- " 13. School attendance during last week: Average per day, two thousand, seven hundred and ninety-five; enrolled, three thousand, three hundred and sixty-five,

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- Dec. 13. Men were ploughing in Milford and Stratford.
 Mr. T. Munson sent one hundred and fifty fowls to the poultry fair in Hartford.
 - " 14. The Hon. James H. Hoyt, late Superintendent of the N. Y. & N. H. R. R., died in Stamford, aged 65 years.
 - " 15. The Cartridge Company running sixteen hours a day, and the Bridgeport Iron Works from 7 A. M. to 10 P. M.
 - " 16. Mr. Salmon Hunt, living on Pembroke street, died very suddenly, aged 70 years.
 - " 17. The old custom of ringing the church bells at the opening of court revived by Judge Park.

 Remarkably mild weather so far during the month.
 - " 18. The Bridgeport arrived after some detention by the thickest fog the captain ever knew.
 - Attempt to throw the evening passenger train on the Housatonic road from the track near Hawleyville.
 - " 19. Mr. Thomas Munson of this city, took nine premiums for fowls at the poultry show in Hartford.
 - " 24. A U. S. mail box for the reception of postal matter was placed at the south end of the depot.
 - " 25. Christmas day. Festival services in many of the churches, the music and decorations being very beautiful.
 - " 26. The Fire Department received one thousand feet of new hose from New York via steamer Bridgeport.
 - Mr. J. B. Prescott, while returning home at about

 1 A. M., assaulted near the corner of Broad and
 Gilbert streets.
 - " 29. A tug came into the harbor with eleven canal boats in single file in tow.
 - " 30. Concert by Wheeler and Wilson Orchestra, assisted by Mr. Dabney Carr.

FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF EDUCATION,

CF

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 12TH, 1880.

BRIDGEPORT, CONN.:
THE STANDARD ASSOCIATION, PRINTERS.

1880.

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HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE SCHOOLS OF BRIDGEPORT PREVIOUS TO CONSOLIDATION.

The early settlers of Connecticut, like the other New England colonists, realized the importance of providing schools for the education of their children.

In 1639, the year following the settlement of New Haven, a transaction is on record showing the existence of a school at that time.

In the code of laws drawn up for the colony by Deputy Governor Roger Ludlow, of Fairfield, and adopted in 1650, it was ordered that "Every township within the jurisdiction, after the Lord hath increased them to the number of fifty households, shall forthwith appoint one within their Town to teach all such children as shall be sent to him to write and read, whose wages shall be paid either by the parents of such children or by the inhabitants in general. And it is further ordered that when any town shall increase to the number of one hundred families or householders they shall set up a Grammar school, the master thereof being able to instruct youths so far as they may be fitted for the University."

The same year the town of Stratford voted in public meeting "To hire a schoolmaster at a salary of £36 per annum, one-half to be paid by the town and one-half by the parents of the children."

The exact date of the settlement of Bridgeport cannot now be positively determined, but it is probably not long after this time. The settlement was known as Pequonnock, or Fairfield village, and was near the junction of Park and North avenues. Part of the settlers lived in Fairfield and part in Statford, as the boundary line between these towns passed through this locality. In 1678 the settlers petitioned the General Court to exempt them from paying taxes for the support of schools in Fairfield, representing that the distance of nearly four miles was too great to be easily traversed by the children, especially the younger ones. They had already set up a school of their own and employed an experienced teacher. Forty-seven children were in attendance. They had previously per

. v titioned the town of Fairfield for redress, but it had been denied. They proposed to maintain their school at their own expense.

The General Court recommended the County Court of Fair-field to "grant unto the inhabitants of Pequonnoke as much of their county revenues by customs, fines, etc., as much as their rates should come to towards the maintainance of the grammar school at Fairfield."

At the same time the court at Fairfield were recommended "to improve so much of their county revenues as they can spare for the settlement and encouragement of a grammar school there."

The boundaries of this settlement, or plantation as it was called, were not definitely fixed till the year 1701, when the General Court established them and gave it the name of Stratfield Parish. The territory embraced was included between the Pequonnock river on the east and what is now known as Moody's Mill on the west, bordering on the Sound and extending as far north as the northern limit of Fairfield. The next year the constables of Fairfield and Stratford were directed to pay to the authorities at Stratfield their share of the school monies arising from the annual tax of forty shillings to the thousand pounds.

The particulars of the first school house or teachers are involved in so much of doubt that they cannot be found. A school house, probably the second, was built in 1703 near the junction of the present Park avenue and Pequonnock street, not far from the present Old South school. Among the first school masters of those times was Wm. Rogers, whose agreement with the committee, Samuel Hubbell and Benjamin Fayerweather, made in 1710, is still extant. A noted master after this time was John Wheeler, who taught for many years and was held in high esteem and universally known as "Master Wheeler." His salary in 1736 for teaching a summer school was £63. As the currency was much depreciated at that time it was not so large as at first might appear. The second school was formed in 1738 and the house built near the present site of the Toilsome Hill school house in Fairfield. The

third school was established in 1754 near the upper end of Sport Hill, in the present town of Easton. This was probably discontinued, as the records show that in 1766 the society voted to establish a *third* school in a private house, the location of which the writer has not been able to determine.

In 1766 the General Court passed a law authorizing each town and society "to divide themselves into proper and necessary districts for keeping their schools, and to alter and regulate the same from time to time as they shall have occasion; which districts shall draw their equal proportion of all public monies belonging to such town or societies, according to the list of each respective districts therein."

In accordance with this law the Stratfield society the following year established three districts, called the North, Middle and South.

The boundary line between the Middle and South districts was a little north of Beech's Woods. The general direction of this line was from east to west.

The boundary between the Middle and North districts cannot now be determined with any degree of certainty.

In 1770 each district was requested to maintain the school for five or six months, and any district that would maintain its school for the balance of the year was encouraged to do so by the offer of a share of the public money towards its support.

The schools continued to be managed by the committees chosen by the parish at the annual meeting till 1796, when a school society was formed in accordance with a law enacted the previous year, which provided that the interest on monies received from the sale of the lands of the "Western Reserve" should be paid school societies "according to the list of polls and rateable estate of such societies respectively." These lands were sold for \$1,200,000, which formed the foundation of the present State school fund. This society continued in existence till 1856, when with the other school societies in the State, it was abolished and its property and obligations transferred to the town. It would appear that the school houses in the Old South and Toilsome districts had become unfit for use through age or some other cause, as in 1799 committees.

 were appointed "to fix the stake" for building new houses in each of these districts. The same year the records show that a motion was made "That a school of an higher order be established," but "the vote was negatived." The next year it was "Voted that all Parish business in future be done at the annual society's meeting and managed by the society's committee," thus bringing the management of parish and school business again under the control of one organization as it had formerly been under the old ecclesiastical society. In accordance with the law of the State requiring these school societies to appoint "overseers or visitors," whose duties were similar to what are now required of acting visitors, the Stratfield society in 1801 appointed one visitor for each of the following districts: Bridgeport, Old South, Island Brook, Toilsome and North.

No hint is given in the records of the boundaries of any of these districts, nor when the Bridgeport or Island Brook districts were organized.

Reference is made in the records of the Bridgeport district to a tract of land that was conveyed to the district in 1789, which shows it must have been organized previous to that date.

The first school house erected in this district was an octagonal brick structure, standing on the site of the building on State street, now occupied by Morrison & Wells as a saddle and harness factory. This building was afterwards taken down and in its place a wooden one built in 1827 on the same site. This house in turn gave way in 1850 to the brick building now occupied by the firm previously mentioned. This was used for school purposes till the erection of the Prospect street building in 1860.

In 1841 authority was given by the State to the Stratfield society to maintain a school exclusively for colored children and to set apart for its maintainance a pro rata share of the public money. This school was organized by the Bridgeport district and occupied a building on Gregory street till 1871, when the school was transferred to a room in the wing of the Prospect street school house, which had recently been added. This was continued as a separate ungraded school till the



fall of 1876, when the pupils were placed in their proper grades in the different rooms of the same building.

In 1845 the Bridgeport district was divided and the northern part formed the Golden Hill district. That district built the house still standing on the north side of High street. In 1851 the Bridgeport district was again divided and the western part called Division district. The school of this district occupied a building on Lewis street till it was sold in 1871, when the school was transferred to the building on Prospect street at the same time with the school for colored children previously mentioned. At this time the district was abolished and part of the territory was assigned to the Bridgeport district and the rest to the Old South.

In 1858 the Bridgeport district, after an exciting discussion, voted to abolish the bills for tuition or "rate bills" as they were called. Till that time, as in the other districts, the expense of maintaining the schools beyond what was received from the school fund was assessed pro rata upon the pupils attending the school. Hence the term "rate bill." This action of the Bridgeport district in making their school free to all living in the limits of the district was the more noteworthy, as it was ten years previous to the law enacted by the State making it compulsory upon all the towns to support free schools.

The first house occupied by the Island Brook school was built in the latter part of the last century, near the junction of Lindley street and North avenue. Some time in the first part of the present century a new house was erected on the south side of North avenue, near the present house of Albert Wakeman. This building gave way to another that was built in 1852 on the same side of North avenue but further west than the previous one. This house was destroyed by fire in 1870. This district had been divided in 1837 and the northern part called Pequomock. The latter district built a small wooden house between the present depot at North Bridgeport and the Church of the Nativity. After the destruction of the Island Brook house in 1870 the two districts were united and the whole called Island Brook. A new house of wood was erected on the site of the present school house



on the north side of North avenue. This building was also destroyed by an incendiary fire on the night of June 21, 1877. The school was continued in the stone building adjoining the Church of the Nativity till the present brick building was ready for occupancy in the late fall of the same year.

In 1847 the north-eastern part of the Old South district was set off and formed Washington district. The school of this district first occupied a building erected for it on the north side of the present Leverty street. In 1860 the district purchased a building that was previously occupied by a parochial school, standing on the west side of Washington avenue, near James street. The school continued in this building till 1873, when it was removed to the present building on Pequomock street.

In 1848 Island Brook was again divided and the southern part called the Shelton Union district. The first name was afterward omitted, and it has been more generally known by the name of Union simply. The first school house erected by this district was located on the east side of North Washington avenue, near its junction with Commercial and Thompson streets. Its school occupied this building till 1860 when it was transferred to the present building on Grand street.

In 1850 the Stratfield school society again voted. That it is expedient to take measures for establishing a High School," This vote does not seem to have borne more fruit than the previous one unless the school that was taught in the upper story of the building that belonged to the Bridgeport district on State street could be considered a high school.

When Bridgeport was incorporated as a town in 1821 there were two school districts in the territory east of the Pequon-nock river. The northern, called Pembroke, was established in the latter part of the last century, and erected the house on the "King's Highway," on "Old Mill Green," which is still used for school purposes. The southern section was called New Pasture Point and built its first school house in 1796 on the east side of what is now known as East Main street, between Stratford avenue and Pierpoint street. In 1859 it erected the brick building on Nichols street, which has been used for



school purposes since that time. About the same time the name of the district was changed to East Bridgeport. This district was divided about 1847 and the north-eastern part called Waltersville. The first school house of the Waltersville district was a wooden building standing on the corner of Pembroke and Hallam streets. This was destroyed by fire in 1863. The district erected in 1860 the brick building on Hamilton street which has been used for school purposes since that time. This building was enlarged by two wings in 1868.

The Barnum district was organized in 1854 and formed partly from the New Pasture Point and partly from Pembroke district. The first school house was erected on the corner of Barnum and Park streets. This building was removed in 1864 to its present location on Noble street. This district erected the brick school houses on Sterling and Jane streets in 1872.

In 1870 the Black Rock district was transferred from Fairfield to Bridgeport. This district was established in 1780 and erected its first school house in the highway in front of the present building where it stood until the first part of this century, when a second one was built on the site of the present one. This was removed and the present one built in 1857.

These eleven districts continued to manage their own schools under the supervision of the Board of School Visitors till 1876 when the town voted to abolish the separate districts and place the schools under the direction of the Board of Education.*

CONCLUSION.

In closing this report it is pleasant to acknowledge the many courtesies extended by all with whom official duty has associated me during the past year.

Attention is invited to the tables accompanying this report.

Respectfully submitted.

H. M. Harrington, Supt. of Schools.

Beidgeport, August 9, 1880.

The writer desires to return thanks to Capt, John Brooks, Messrs, Janes Forter, Stephen Niehols, Andrew E. Joy, R. B. Lacey, Geo W. Hayes, and others who have kindly given information that has been used in the preparation of this sketch. He is under special obligation to Maj, Blucks who has generously allowed the use of his notes, prepared for the forthcoming instory of Fatrifield County,—II, M. II.

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